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Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat, Rabin Meet, Announce 3-Point Agreement

'Arafat Holds News Conference

LD0607134094 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1300 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin had talks early this afternoon in the framework of the summit on Palestinian autonomy. The talks were followed by a news conference given by the leader of the PLO. Dominique Andre was there:

[Begin Andre recording] The meeting with Yitzhaq Rabin was positive and fruitful: that is what Yasir 'Arafat has just said. He held a surprise news conference just after meeting the Israeli prime minister. Peace has been given a new impetus by both sides, said the head of the PLO. 'Arafat said that they had agreed on important points, but that other aspects needed to be looked at again.

The first meeting dealt with, among other things, the Gaza-Jericho plan—which, the PLO head said, had started off well—with the transfer of authority to the West Bank, and with the preparation of elections.

'Arafat stressed the question of elections in the West Bank and Gaza, and in Jerusalem, where the Arab population should be able to vote and to be visible.

From Avenue Kleber this is Dominique Andre for France Inter. [end recording]

For his part, the Israeli prime minister said his country had created bases from which to move forward. Even if it takes time, a conflict of 100 years cannot be solved in one month, six months, or six years, Rabin added.

Three New Committees Formed

TA0607160594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Excerpt] It was decided at today's Paris meeting between Rabin, Peres, and 'Arafat to set up three committees to deal with the release of prisoners and the size of Jericho, early empowerment for the Palestinian Authority, and the return of the 1967 refugees. Jordan and Egypt will also be invited to the discussions on the return of the refugees.

Following the meeting, 'Arafat said it gave new impetus to the peace process. He said he had called on Rabin to release Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and the female Palestinian prisoners. He also urged greater coordination with the Palestinians in order to strengthen the agreement, especially on issues pertaining to the prisoners, the cutting off of Jerusalem from the territories, and early empowerment. The PLO leader stressed that the elections in the territories have to include East Jerusalem because, he said, the agreement with Israel permits East Jerusalem inhabitants to vote and be elected. [passage omitted]

Three-Point Agreement Reached

LD0607163794 Paris Radio France International in French 1600 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres have all been in Paris since this morning. The three political figures have already discussed the extension of Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories early this afternoon. They reached a three-point agreement: The Israelis and the Palestinians agreed to discuss the transfer of the civilian authority over the rest of the West Bank to the Palestinians; the final settlement of problems that were left aside during the Cairo negotiations; and the preparation of a meeting between Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and the PLO.

This afternoon the three leaders received the Houphouet-Boigny Prize at the UNESCO headquarters in recognition of their efforts for peace.

More on Talks, Yasin Release

TA0707060494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Negotiations on the early transfer of authorities to the Palestinian Authority and on holding elections in the territories will begin on 11 July. Our correspondent in Paris Arye Golan reports that an agreement on this was reached early this morning in Paris in a meeting of a joint Palestinian-Israeli team. The agreement still has to be endorsed by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. It was also agreed to establish a Palestinian-Israeli committee to deal with those issues left unresolved by the first Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Jordan and Egypt will be invited to participate with the Palestinians and Israel in a quadripartite committee that will deal with the return of the Palestinians who were displaced in the 1967 war.

Major General Dani Rothschild will head the Israeli team on the early transfer of authorities to the Palestinians, while Nabil Sha'th will head the Palestinian team.

[A similar report by correspondent Arye Golan on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 7 July adds that "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told Yasir 'Arafat in Paris yesterday that if Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader Ahmad Yasin will be prepared to make a commitment not to return to the Gaza Strip for at least 10 years and appeal to his followers in Hamas to stop terrorist activities and violence, then Israel will be willing to consider Yasir 'Arafat's personal appeal on this matter. As for the release of female prisoners, the prime minister explained that this is a complicated

matter as the release of female prisoners who were East Jerusalem residents lies outside his jurisdiction as defense minister. There are legal problems involved, Rabin noted, citing appeals made to the High Court of Justice as an example. This is no simple matter, Rabin concluded. Therefore, no progress has been made on this issue."]

Peres on Lebanon, Paris Talks

TA0707083794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Paris by Mikha Friedman and Mikhal Gazit in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Friedman] To what extent is the current exacerbation in south Lebanon linked to Syria's frustration over the fact that the political negotiations are progressing smoothly without them?

[Peres] It is difficult to say; however, the Syrians clearly can prevent this. Syria is sticking to its old routine of one step forward followed by one step backwards.

[Friedman] Has Israel made any categorical demands that the Syrians stop this wave of violence as it ultimately undermines the possibility of opening new channels of dialogue with them?

[Peres] Of course. The Syrians refuse to admit any of this, however. They do not come out and say that they have assisted in this activity and will now stop.

[Friedman] In that case, is there anything beyond our public demands of them?

[Peres] No. We reached some kind of agreement with the Syrians, which they pretty much respected, and I hope they will continue to honor it in the future.

[Friedman] What does this agreement stipulate? In light of the recent exacerbation in the north, we have almost forgotten.

[Peres] The agreement states that there will be no shelling inside Israel and that we will not shell them. They have mostly honored this agreement up till now.

[Friedman] Are you referring to the agreement reached in the wake of Operation Accountability?

[Peres] Yes, of course.

[Friedman] Are Hizballah and the Syrians now deliberately violating this agreement?

[Peres] I cannot tell you from here. I simply do not know.

[Gazit] Mr. Foreign Minister, the prime minister's reaction to the heating up in south Lebanon implies that there is nothing to do but wait for a political solution, if and when that is achieved. Until then, the prime minister said, we must continue paying a painful price. Do you agree with him?

[Peres] The prime minister said two things, the first being that we must take the necessary military steps, which we are constantly doing. The Israel Air Force also carries out operations all the time. Fundamentally speaking, however, the best way to stop terrorism is to reduce the motivation leading to it, and a political solution is undoubtedly the permanent and optimal solution.

[Friedman] Is it clear both to Syria and Lebanon that in the context of such a political solution, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will fully withdraw from the security zone in south Lebanon?

[Peres] Look, we told the Lebanese that if they prove that they control the territory within six months, then we are prepared to withdraw; however, the Lebanese, apparently under Syrian pressure, refused to deploy the Lebanese Army in the south. In my opinion, this was their mistake.

[Friedman] With your permission, I would like to move on to a brief discussion of the issues pertaining to Israel and the PLO. I understand that Israel expressed opposition to the PLO's demand to bring the elections in the West Bank forward. The question is: Why should we not try to help 'Arafat exploit his success following his visit to the territories to gain significant political dividends in the West Bank elections?

[Peres] We did not put off the elections. We merely said that these elections relate to a different track. There is the track of early empowerment [last two words in English], the early transfer of authorities. There is another track in which we are discussing the future implementation of autonomy in different fields. Last night, when we concluded the negotiations in the early hours of the night, we agreed that the committee that will discuss early empowerment will also discuss the issue of elections, as well as the budget.

[Gazit] There is already talk of pulling the IDF out of the major towns. The town of Nabulus was also mentioned.

[Peres] One can talk about everything, but no agreement has been reached yet because the negotiations have not started. The first thing we must do is negotiate, and we will do that now.

[Gazit] We have heard that the atmosphere at the talks is positive but not much more than that. Have some things already been agreed or is everything still in the realm of talk?

[Peres] After one day, one can only begin to discuss; one cannot get to the core issues that fast.

[Gazit] What is your timetable? How long will the talks continue?

[Peres] The negotiations on three issues will begin next week. We will conduct negotiations to wrap up the outstanding issues from the Cairo agreement, as well as negotiations on the issue of early empowerment. We will also discuss the problems relating to the budget and elections. We also agreed to send out invitations to the quadripartite committee to discuss other issues.

[Friedman] Incidentally, it is a little strange for you and Yitzhaq Rabin to be meeting with Yasir 'Arafat in Paris, now that the PLO chairman has come to our region stating that he is about to settle in Gaza city. Do you see any possibility of holding the talks here?

[Peres] Look, we met in Paris because this is where we were awarded the prize.

[Friedman] And later on?

[Peres] The talks will continue in Cairo.

[Friedman] In Cairo? Not in Israel or the territories?

[Peres] I think that if the talks are held in the territories or in Israel, 'Arafat will be under tremendous pressure, and we prefer the more quiet atmosphere of Cairo, which is located in the region. The fact that the Egyptians will act as hosts is also positive and beneficial.

[Friedman] Let us conclude with what is perhaps the most optimistic track: the talks with Jordan. I understand that 18 July has already been set as the date for the talks at 'En 'Avrona in the 'Arava. Is there really a basis for your expectations that the talks with Jordan will be upgraded to the foreign ministers level?

[Peres] Eventually, yes.

[Friedman] Not at once.

[Peres] No, not at once. The talks will start more at the professional level.

[Friedman] Why drag Warren Christopher into these talks? Why not keep them bilateral?

[Peres] The Americans also have something to contribute to the negotiations with Jordan, especially with regard to the economic side of things.

[Friedman] Thank you, Foreign Minister Peres.

Topics of Talks Detailed

TA0707084194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jul 94 pp A1, A6

["Exclusive" report by special correspondent in France Nitzan Horowitz]

[Excerpts] Paris—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held two meetings with Yasir 'Arafat in Paris yesterday on the second stage of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. After the second meeting, the prime minister said: "We are approaching the second stage on the basis of a positive experience." [passage omitted]

The Paris talks with the Palestinians focused mainly on the complex early empowerment issue. Rabin admitted that Israel had pledged to discuss the possibility of expanding the powers to be transferred to the Palestinians, but he maintained that "the matter is very complicated." Yesterday Israel agreed that working groups, to be established for that purpose, will discuss early empowerment "resolutely and positively," albeit cautiously, step-by-step, and not as requested by 'Arafat. "The Palestinians tend to overextend and to rush," Rabin said. Shim'on Peres added that the Palestinians are "very anxious" about the elections, "but hasty action would be a mistake, because there are numerous obstacles." Peres said that nowadays, the PLO people are much more confident vis-a-vis Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

During the meeting, the Palestinians complained about Israeli media reports alleging that the PLO fears elections. They announced that since they are confident of their ability to win, they are interested in holding elections as soon as possible. Rabin stressed that the election issue is related to the structure of the autonomy council, while the autonomy council structure is related to its powers, and the latter is related to very complex security issues. The prime minister pointed out that the election issue relates to the interim arrangement and not to early empowerment: "If we proceed with the interim arrangement, there will be no early empowerment," he said.

In his opinion, the sides must launch methodical and cautious discussions on early empowerment before the details of the interim arrangement in all the territories are broached. "If, in the course of the talks on early empowerment, Israel realizes that progress cannot be achieved without finalizing some of the details that pertain to the interim arrangement, such as elections, it will change its approach—and may it all take only seven months, like the Gaza-Jericho agreement," Rabin said.

According to him, Nabil Sha'th's proposal to implement each subject as it is finalized is impossible, "because these issues are linked and interrelated." The prime minister stressed that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment issue pertains only to the permanent arrangement, while the approaching stages include only a withdrawal from densely populated areas. Rabin pointed out that the IDF redeployment is absolutely unrelated to the early empowerment.

Another issue discussed was the "quadripartite committee" with the participation of Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and the Palestinians. Rabin stressed that he does not understand why the PLO is obstructing the convening of this committee. He said Israel insists on convening the committee at the foreign ministers level, and the PLO, too, will have to dispatch a senior representative, such as

Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]. Israel has even suggested to 'Arafat that the sides jointly invite Jordan and Egypt. Rabin said he is "surprised at the Palestinians, who are in no hurry to convene the committee to discuss an issue they consider so important: the 1967 displaced persons."

During the meeting, Rabin called on 'Arafat to honor a commitment he made nearly a year ago to convene the Palestine National Council [PNC] to rescind the Palestinian Covenant calling for the annihilation of Israel. "Now that they have Gaza, they can convene the PNC," he said.

He stressed that "while 'Arafat wants an Israeli commitment to continue the process, Israel also wants a Palestinian commitment." 'Arafat said in response that it should be remembered that "he did not write the Covenant; al-Shuqayri did," adding that he has not forgotten the matter and will take action in that respect.

Rabin and Peres voiced satisfaction with 'Arafat's speech at the UNESCO ceremony, saying that the explicit Palestinian commitment to continue implementing the agreement is very positive. They expressed appreciation for the conciliatory tone of the PLO leader's remarks. The meetings with the PLO were also conducted in a rather positive spirit.

The prime minister stressed that the first stage of the negotiations—the Gaza-Jericho agreement—had been implemented and successfully completed in spheres important to Israel. The prime minister was particularly satisfied with the security arrangements and the cooperation with the Palestinians. He asserted that the level of terrorism in Gaza has declined significantly.

Nevertheless, Rabin voiced disappointment with the implementation of the resolutions of the agreement's civil affairs annex. The prime minister and the foreign minister criticized the numerous difficulties in the establishment of the autonomy's civil authority, adding that the tools to handle international donations to the territories have not been created. Rabin said that out of consideration for the Palestinians and for its own economic needs, Israel has increased the number of work permits issued to territories residents. He revealed that a defense establishment survey showed that in the past 18 months, no terrorist attacks have been perpetrated on Israeli territory by Palestinians permitted to work in Israel.

Israel, PLO Issue Communique

TA0707093994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] The PLO and Israel have just published a joint communique in Paris to sum up the day's discussions on the continuation of the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians.

Our correspondent in Paris Arye Golan has learned that Yasir 'Arafat promised to convene the Palestine National Council [PNC] in the Gaza Strip in the very near future in order to amend the Palestinian Charter in line with his commitment to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. PLO sources expressed the assessment that if the PNC convenes in the Gaza Strip, 'Arafat will have a majority for the annulment of the clauses calling for Israel's destruction.

The joint communique also states that on 11 July, discussions will be held in Cairo on the next stage of the Declaration of Principles within the framework of two joint working groups. The first group will deal with issues left unresolved in the Cairo agreement, including the release of additional Palestinian prisoners. The second working group will discuss the early transfer of authorities in Judaea and Samaria to the Palestinians and elections in the territories.

The two delegations agreed to discuss the establishment of a quadripartite committee with the governments of Jordan and Egypt. This committee will deal with the Palestinians displaced in the 1967 war. Israel also promised to seriously consider the Palestinian delegation's request to release female prisoners.

'Arafat, Rabin Address UNESCO Peace Prize Ceremony

'Arafat Speaks

JN0607202694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1520 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Speech by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at the UNESCO peace prize ceremony in Paris—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Ladies and gentlemen: My visit today to your friendly country and to the UNESCO in particular, has special historic importance, because this is the first time that I come to visit a friendly country from the holy land of my homeland, Palestine. [applause] In the name of my people, I convey to you their heartfelt greetings, sincere feelings, and dearest wishes that efforts will continue to achieve a just, comprehensive peace, the peace of the brave, in the Middle East, and to overcome all obstacles before the option of peace.

Ladies and gentlemen: The manifestations of joy expressed over the past week by our Palestinian masses in all their cities, villages, camps, and places of residence, which were clearly witnessed by the entire world, are an expression of our people's eagerness for freedom and salvation from occupation. This is also the beginning of the march to achieve their national rights to self- determination, independence, state building—God willing—soon, and ending bitter eras of exile, displacement, emigration, suffering, detentions, and coercion. Also, this was an expression and clear evidence of our people's support for the option of peace and the peace process, as well as of our people's support for and belief in it as a free choice that will lead to our people's restoration of their right to freedom, assumption of their historic role as part

of the regional nations, as well as participation in building their future, stability, and prosperity.

Ladies and gentlemen: The historic achievment represented by the signing of the Declaration of Principles between the PLO and the Israeli Government, required, from both parties, a great deal of bravery and firmness. It also required a view that is capable of looking at the future and understanding the lessons of history. A creative spirit has reinforced this process which has paved the road for a genuine peace in one of the most complicated conflicts of this century. I am confident that both parties—while walking this road—were aware the size of dangers and difficulties. They were also aware of the big challenges and dangers of failure. I am also confident, however, that both of us were fully aware of the gains which our people will achieve through paving the road of peace. We were also aware that we have a rendezvous with history to make a new future for our new generations. Therefore, we reiterate today that the challenges facing us require that we maintain this creative spirit which led us on the path of peace. This spirit belongs to the future and tries to bypass past bitterness and present pains. What we are facing today is the challenge of peace. This challenge means that we should turn our accords into a tangible component of the living reality. It also means translating the provisions, the political and legal terms, and the technical details into evidence in the daily life in order to make our people feel the freedom, independence, security, justice, and prosperity that peace inspires.

This is the only type of peace which can be protected, as the UNESCO said, peace which safeguards the dignity of all peoples, human rights, and the lives of peoples. This big challenge which we face these days gives us three tasks:

The first task is the honest, accurate, and rapid implementation of the clauses of the peace agreement. Undoubtedly, the course of the implementation process over the past two months was not as quick as it should be to impose the Palestinian National Authority's [PNA] control over the rest of the West Bank territories, and to hold the Palestinian legislative elections after the redeployment of the Israeli forces far from the populated areas, and then to move to, as soon as possible, the final status file, particularly regarding the issues of holy Jerusalem, the refugees, borders, and other issues, to implement the resolutions of the international legitimacy represented by UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. [applause] The progress toward the final status negotiations, and the avoidance of anything that would reflect negatively on them, is vital to secure the peace issue, which will continue to be threatened with inevitable collapse if it remains incomplete. Let me here point to the past two months experience. This experience has confirmed a classic lesson; specifically that the mechanisms and laws produced by the agreement that was hammered out in months can sort out many complex issues in record time.

The second task is to secure, protect, and reinforce peace. This can be achieved by securing the constituent elements required for its success. The cornerstone of this lies in the full support for the reconstruction campaign in our country. Our people, thanks to their vital and creative capabilities and to their faith in their rights and adherence to them were able to safeguard their national identity despite the years of expulsion and occupation. Our people will spare no effort to build their national entity so that our country will continue to be, as it used to be throughout history, a minaret for civilization and progress and a land for tolerance. This will not be achieved, however, unless the international community, the advanced economic states, the international financial institutions, and the donor states assume their moral, political, and material responsibilities, and extend fast and adequate aid to enable the PNA to assume its responsibilities toward the development and reconstruction of the infrastructure which was destroyed by the occupation. Peace is based on two basic strategies. They are: The political agreement, and the financial and economic arrangements which allow the achievement and implementation of this peace. Without these two pillars, the peace process, though it is noble and important, will be threatened by loss and collapse. The Palestinian side must not continue to be the side which pays the price of peace while the other parties reap the fruits of peace.

The third task is the expansion of the circle of peace and the achievement of its comprehensiveness. We welcome the tangible progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track, and hope that we will see the same progress on the Israeli-Syrian track and the Israeli-Lebanese tracks to complete the just and comprehensive peace on all the Palestinian, Syrian, Jordanian, Lebanese, and Arab tracks based on the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Ladies and gentlemen: Here we are now proceeding toward building an entity which reinforces the values and principles of democracy, pluralism, and the supremacy of law, protects human rights, and lays the foundations of a free economy which secures the requirements of development and the pillars of prosperity for our people. To achieve all this, we are in need for the support of all those who are concerned for peace. As I have previously said, peace in our region is not only a Palestinian, Arab, or Israeli interest and need, it is also an interest and a need for all the world peoples and states.

I seize this opportunity to reiterate before you in the name of the PLO and the Palestinian people our commitment to the peace agreements and our concern about implementing them. With certain resolution and sincere intention, our dear new neighbors, the Israeli prime minister and the Israeli foreign minister, you are now our new dear neighbors. In the past, we were cousins. I and my brother Faysal [al-Husayni] are descendants of Abraham, may God's peace be upon him. [applause] Yes, we are Abraham's descendants and you are Abraham's descendants. We have been cousins, and we shall

continue to be colleagues, neighbors, and new friends, not only in the interest of both of us, but also in the interest of the entire region and in favor of mankind as a whole. [applause]

Let me confirm here, from the UNESCO, that the holy city of Jerusalem must be a minaret for a just and comprehensive peace. As Christians and Muslims, we understand and respect the Jewish holy places in holy Jerusalem. We hope that the Israeli side will also understand the Christian and Islamic holy places in the city. The city must not be isolated, closed, or besieged. Neither should its demographic, economic, or political structure and its religious nature be changed. In fact, it must be a minaret and a proof of the strength of this peace, the peace of the brave. Yes, the holy city, with all its religious, cultural, material, and human heritage must be an example of this peaceful coexistence and a vital symbol of the peace of the brave between us. [applause] [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, we were partners in making this historic achievement for the sake of our peoples and children. I am sure that we possess that resolution and determination to make our peoples partners to the process of completing this achievement so that a true, just, and comprehensive peace will prevail in the region which is looking forward to turn a new leaf and to begin a new era of peace, cooperation, and stability.

For our part, we will safeguard the peace of the brave regardless of the difficulties, obstacles, troubles, and pains we might face. This is a pledge by me and by our Palestinian people. I am certain that all the other direct and indirect parties will have the same commitment for the sake of the future of our children and your children and our generations and your generations, and for the sake of a new Middle East.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you. [applause]

Rabin Speaks

TA0607191494 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 1716 GMT 6 Jul 94

["Transcript" of address by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin upon receiving the UNESCO Peace Prize on 6 July in Paris; issued by the prime minister's media advisor]

[Text] We have come today, from the ends of the earth, the members of many nations, to honor a legendary man: Felix Houphouet-Boigny. Of all the wise words he gave us, in a life rich with deeds and accomplishment, I have chosen a single saying: "Let us proceed slowly, for we are in a hurry."

Ladies and gentlemen: It is summer here in Paris, and we, on a small patch of land in the Middle East, are entering one of the more decisive stages on the way to reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. This is the stage where we end our dreaming. The time has come now to roll up our sleeves.

"Let us proceed slowly," said our friend Houphouet-Boigny, who is sorely missed here today and whose statesmanly wisdom we so thoroughly miss.

And we, indeed, have been proceeding along slowly. For over a hundred years, we have fought over the same strip of land: the country in which we, the sons of Abraham, have been fated to live together. Both peoples, Israelis and Palestinians, have known suffering, pain, and bereavement.

Now the fanfares and festivals are over. Now the vapors of euphoria are slowly settling into grains of dust, and the echoes of celebration are being scattered by the hot southern wind. Now that the flags have been folded, the trumpets silenced, the stages dismantled - now, the more difficult, more dangerous part has come. And both sides must calculate their steps slowly, with prudence and care. For a century of hatred does not dissolve suddenly, with a handshake in Washington. All the bloodshed can't be covered by the beating of drums. Peace will be built slowly, day by day, through modest deeds, and countless spontaneous details. It will be built, step by step, by people.

From now on, the making of peace is not a matter for spotlights, for elegant halls, and for ball gowns. From now on, the baking sun in Jericho and Na'ama, in Khan Yunus and Netzer Hazani, will replace the spotlights in Washington, Cairo and Paris. The handshakes on the lawn in Washington, the stage in Cairo, and here in Paris must be repeated by the residents of Gaza and Ashqelon, of Jericho and Ma'ale Adumim. What we have acknowledged here in this beautiful setting in Paris, must be transferred to the markets in Gaza, where Israelis will buy fruit from Palestinian vendors.

Peace will be tasted in the Palestinian coffee poured into the cups of Israeli friends. It will be heard in the applause of Israelis for the performance of a Palestinian theater troupe, and the jeers of the rival soccer fans when Khan Yunus plays against Tel Aviv.

Peace will be seen when an Israeli driver yields the right of way to his Palestinian counterpart - and vice versa; when a Palestinian policeman gives a ticket to an Israeli driver - and the other way around. Peace lies in the grin of an Israeli doctor delivering a Palestinian newborn, and in the smile of a Palestinian lifeguard toward Israeli bathers on the beach.

That, ladies and gentlemen, is peace. We are going along slowly and cautiously, one step at a time, because the enemies of peace are even more numerous than we imagined. Because extremists on both sides are lying in wait for us, and we—Israelis and Palestinians, alike must not fail. At every step, we must think, consider, weigh, check and, beware.

We are in a hurry because we have waited over a hundred years for this day, in Gaza and Jerusalem, in Jericho and Netanya, in Rafah and Rosh Pina. We are in a hurry to spare another Israeli mother weeping tears of pain and another Palestinian mother from shedding bitter sobs. We are in an hurry in order to see a light in the eyes of neighbors who, until now, have never seen single day of freedom and joy. We are hastening in order to hike, drive, tour and enjoy life in every corner of this land. We are in a hurry so that children can be born into a new world—a world where "hostility" and "war" are just dead words, found only in the dictionary.

We are in a hurry, ladies and gentlemen—and therefore we are proceeding slowly. We are moving very carefully. For not all of us will have another chance.

We know very well, as we stand on this stage - my colleague Shim'on Peres and I—that your are not recognizing just us, but the entire State of Israel, and its citizens who dream of peace. And we thank you for extending us this great honor. We thank you, the people of UNESCO, for deciding, after so many years, to examine the truth in our hearts, and grant us this moment of affection.

Our thanks go the judges and to an old friend and man of peace, Professor Henry Kissinger. Our gratitude goes to the guests who honor us by being here today; the President of the Ivory Coast, the President of France, the President of Portugal, the Prime Minister of France, the Prime Minister of Senegal, the Prime Minister of Turkey. And we wish to thank all of you, ladies and gentlemen, for coming here today to pay tribute to peace.

Ladies and gentlemen, peace is an abstract concept. Prime ministers tend to see the essential things—the "big picture"—and it's said that they don't have time for details. I translate peace into people: men and women, flesh and blood, with names and addresses. Sometimes, when I have to make a decision, there are certain people I think of, and I contemplate their fate.

There was a family in Israel that symbolizes, in our eyes, the bond of generations to the Land of Israel, Jewish moral and cultural values, a return to the soil after two thousand years of exile, security and the dream of peace.

The mother of the family, Rahel Kaplan, was the daughter of the Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem—the offspring of a family deeply rooted, for generations, between the Western Wall—the walls of the Old City—and the new city of Jerusalem, the city of peace. The father, Yisra'el, came to the land that had been promised to the Patriarch Abraham, the father of the Jewish People, from exile in Poland. Hundreds of thousands came like him, and after him from seventy countries of dispersion, and set down roots in their ancient home. Avner was the eldest son of Rahel and Yisra'el Kaplan. He chose to settle the land and to work the soil as a way of life as another expression of the Jewish ties to the Land of Israel. Avner Kaplan died in a fire in his house, on Kibbutz Tel Qatzir, facing the Golan Heights.

Yosi was the Kaplan's second son. He chose defense as a way of life and served as an outstanding officer in the paratroops. Yosi was killed while in pursuit of terrorists in the Jordan Valley. He entered a cave where a woman was sitting with her baby. A moral man, a humanist whom circumstances had made him into a tough soldier, Yosi believed her when she said that she was alone. But when he turned to leave, he was shot by the man hiding there. That's how Yossi Kaplan died. Yoni was their third son. He chose university studies and army service. Although he was entitled to be exempt from combat, because of the death of his brothers, he did not waive his right to serve on the front line, the vanguard of attack. Yoni Kaplan was killed in the bitter fighting against the Egyptian Army in the Yom Kippur War.

The mother of this wonderful family, Rahel, was struck down by cancer. The father Yisra'el, died of a broken heart over the loss of his sons, one after the other. There remains the fourth, last son: 'Amiram Kaplan. For your sake, 'Amiram—for you, for our children and their children, we are moving toward peace. We are proceeding slowly, and we shall hurry to bring it to you. That is our vow to you.

Thank you. Shalom

'Arafat Discusses Current Issues

LD0607212494 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1834 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by unidentified TV and other correspondents in the UNESCO building in Paris—live, with 'Arafat speaking in Arabic with superimposed French translation]

[Text] [Correspondent] Good evening, Mr. 'Arafat. A few hours ago you were in Jericho and Gaza. Here you are in Paris, in the company of my colleague, the director of LE MONDE. We will try to penetrate further into what you have called the peace of the brave.

After years of war, since 13 Septmber, you have often shaken the hand of Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres. Have you become more than partners?

['Arafat] We are not only partners, we are neighbors. We are partners in making peace, the peace of the brave. This demanded a long effort, and there remain a number of challenges that we have to face, which will require a lot of effort on our part to preserve this peace.

[Correspondent] Are you already friends?

['Arafat] I would say that my neighbor is more important than my friend. In the past we were only cousins: I am the son of Abraham, and the Jews are also sons of Abraham, so we are cousins.

[Correspondent] Mr. Rabin was at the Elysee just now, where he met Mr. Francois Mitterrand. When he came out of the Elysee he made a statement, and he spoke about you. Have a listen:

[Begin recording] [Rabin, in English, with superimposed French translation] We have taken a strategic decision. We think the only way to advance is to deal with the PLO. The Palestinians are divided into two groups: Those who follow 'Arafat and who support the peace plan, and those who follow the extremist fundamentalist movements like Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad. The latter are opposed to any agreement with Israel. To make peace you need a partner. And the only possible partner that Israel can have for peace was, and is, the PLO. 'Arafat is the leader of the PLO, he is our partner. It is not a question of liking him or not. You make peace with enemies. And sometimes they are bitter enemies.

[Correspondent] And what do you think of Mr. 'Arafat's proposal about Jerusalem?

[Rabin] I have not come to talk about Jerusalem, or to make statements about Jerusalem. Today we have to concentrate on what we started. And I believe that what we have undertaken and have started to implement, namely the Gaza-Jericho accord, creates confidence on both sides, to put an end to a conflict that has lasted about 100 years between Israel and the Palestinians. [end recording]

[Correspondent] In what we have just heard from Mr. Rabin, Mr. 'Arafat, we can feel that relations with you have changed, nevertheless, he is speaking more strongly about confidence. Do you too feel that? Because up until now you had a greater relationship of trust with Mr. Peres, and now we have the impression that Mr. Rabin is also getting involved?

['Arafat] Not at all. Don't make me bear the weight of your views. I deal with Mr. Rabin as head of government, and with Mr. Peres as minister of foreign affairs, but what has happened is that I have met Mr. Peres more often and this in the light of the meetings in Davos, Cairo, and Oslo, neither more nor less. But I respect both of them.

[Correspondent] What happened today? Are we right to believe that peace has made progress, and at what level, because the joint communique speaks of a forthcoming transfer of civilian authority to the Palestinians. In which areas have you made progress, and have you made progress on the question of the redeployment of the Israeli army outside the towns of the West Bank?

['Arafat] You are obviously talking about the redeployment. This is one of the issues which we will have to discuss in addition to the points related to the early devolution of prerogatives as stipulated in the agreement we signed with the Israelis and other issues concerning camp prisoners and so many other questions still in the process of discussion. But I can already say that the first meeting I had with Mr. Rabin this morning was positive. We had a frank and detailed conversation. A lot of interest in following things up was shown. We agreed to resume the negotiations at midnight before holding a restricted meeting to work out the agenda which was more or less agreed during a previous meeting. We know that there are many problems and nobody has the magic wand, but the most important thing is that we have the goodwill. Let's not forget that this is the peace of the brave in one of the most grave and complex conflicts, that of the Middle East.

[Correspondent] Mr. Arafat, you like negotiating at night. Midnight is your favorite time. You will undoubtedly discuss the transfer of authority from the Israelis to the Palestinians, particularly in the West Bank, but there is a serious problem, that of the presence of 120,000 Israeli settlers. What will become of these settlers? Will you take care of them?

['Arafat] The agreement stipulates that we should implement these modalities as soon as possible before the beginning of the third year. By then we should have implemented the final stages, including the five outstanding issues: Jerusalem, the settlements, the refugees, the final borders, and the economic aspects.

[Correspondent] Will the settlers go or will they be allowed to remain?

['Arafat] First of all, the settlements are in contradiction with international law. Let's not complicate the matter. Let's leave it until the end as in the case of Sinai. Since a solution was found to the Sinai problem, the same could be done concerning the settlements. The Palestinians and Israelis could do the same. There is always a solution when there is goodwill.

[Correspondent] Without trying to complicate matters, is there not reason to fear the opponents of peace? The Israeli Government has its extremists and you have your own, a very strong Islamic opposition. How do you intend to control this opposition and how will you be able to impose peace against all odds, and are you not afraid of being the target of these adversaries of peace?

['Arafat] Was there not opposition to the peace agreement that led to elections in South Africa? Were there not wars in Europe, yet today we are witnessing a united Europe?

Why are you surprised that there should be a few disagreements following so many years of conflict? Even where the European market is concerned there are opponents, even where GATT was concerned, there were European states that were opposed to it. There is nothing on which there can be complete consensus, which can receive the support of everyone. Even prophets, even prophets, those sent by God, were not followed by everyone. In the same way, where political agreements are concerned, of course, there have to be some who are for and some who are against, but we do not fear opposition. Do not forget that we came up against the greatest possible opposition during the revolution, but in spite of that we were able to create an oasis of peace within the forest of rifles and guns.

When I went to Madrid there was no majority within the National Council, and as Voltaire said: I may hold a different opinion from yours, but I am nevertheless ready to fight for your freedom of opinion, so I do not fear opposition. Now, as far as the threats are concerned, let us let things be—have you not heard Mr. Sharon say that he had tried to assassinate me 14 times? Sharon alone tried 14 times. And you know I went to our occupied territory after the Israeli occupation in 1967 and 1968. I was pursued from one place to another. And then I am a believer: No one is master of his life, no one can live longer than his fate dictates. This faith provides strength. Do not forget that I am a native of a holy land and I have great faith in God.

[Correspondent] So, you do not fear violent opposition. On 15 October, in principle, elections are due to be held. For you, is the word "democracy" meaningful in terms of these elections and then in the institutions which will be established?

['Arafat] One of the problems which we are examining with Mr. Rabin is the redeployment of these forces outside the inhabited areas so that we can organize legislative elections as early as possible, and this is what I said during my speech to UNESCO, when I received the Houphouet-Boigny prize.

[Correspondent] So, there could be opposition?

['Arafat] Is there a single society anywhere in which there is no opposition? In France, the country of equality and fraternity, there is an opposition. How can you ask me such a question in this country of democracy, freedom, equality and fraternity?

[Correspondent] The Palestinians are poor, they are even very poor, particularly in the territories themselves. How, in your opinion, can you avoid the political success which you are enjoying today turning quickly into social despondency? These are people who expect all things from you, and they are no doubt expecting immediate improvements in their living conditions—will you have the means to rapidly transform the daily life of the Palestinians rapidly?

['Arafat] That is what I have said quite frankly, and we are suffering. Many promises have been made which have not been fulfilled, and I have said this openly and publicly for the whole of international public opinion to hear: If this peace is not paid for, if it is not supported politically, economically and given moral support, and supported on a media level, then how can the peace be maintained? Is peace just a word or something real? Do not forget that in our country the Palestinian infrastructure has been completely destroyed, and some of you who have been there have been able to see that the occupation has destroyed the infrastructure—we have trouble with obtaining drinking water, we have health problems, problems of schooling, sewage, electricity, and telecommunications problems.

[Correspondent] So, you believe that neither Europe nor France are coming up with this aid which you are hoping for and which you had been promised, furthermore?

['Arafat] The European countries have started to give us this aid. But as you know, there are rules, there are conditions, which we have to respect and keep in mind, and I will say frankly—and I thank all those who have given us their aid, but we need more aid, and as I said in Brussels to the European ministers: You, as Europeans, you occupied countries all over the world, but when you left these countries, you left an infrastructure. This has not happened with us. We are going to start from scratch.

We have an unemployment rate of 58 percent. Gaza is on the edge of famine. And where is the world, here? The G-7 is to meet and I spoke to President Mitterrand a few moments ago about it. I told him: You are going to talk about loans and finance to be given to South Africa, which is a rich state. But on your agenda, won't there be a place for the poor, like us? He gave me a promise, and I believe in the promises given by President Mitterrand.

But don't forget one thing: We are poor but we are rich in our inventiveness. We have the highest degree of education in the world and in the Middle East. We have a higher degree of education than the Israelis, as has been recognized by the (Gavitz) Institute.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Mr. 'Arafat. You are going to prepare for your midnight negotiations, so we will let you go and prepare. What will happen after midnight? What are you going to do tomorrow morning? Very briefly? Will it be as important a day, or an evening, for you, as the previous ones?

['Arafat] If you want to continue the debate, I am ready. I work night and day, you know.

[Correspondent] Thank you. Good evening, and thank you.

['Arafat] Thank you.

Rabin on Hizballah Attack; Firm Response Expected

TA0707050794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Late last night, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin commented on the incident in which an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer was killed in south Lebanon. In a news conference with Israeli correspondents in Paris, the prime minister addressed Syria's involvement in Hizballah activities.

[Begin Rabin recording] The IDF had a string of successes in thwarting terrorist attacks. It was clear to us that Hizballah would find it difficult to simply let this pass, because not only was it hurt from the operational aspect but its image also sustained a blow. Hizballah is a Lebanese body and not a foreign player in Lebanon, like

the Palestinians. It has Iranian backing. It enjoys cooperation in principle with Syria in that the Lebanese are allowed to fight foreign elements in Lebanon and the Syrians are certainly not preventing such activity. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT adds that "senior IDF sources say that Israel will certainly respond sharply to the sort of Hizballah attacks that have taken the lives of three Israeli soldiers in the past three weeks. All efforts will be made to improve even further the defense and protection of soldiers and positions inside the security zone."]

Rabin Sees Need To Reexamine Lebanon Deployment

TA0707071494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Speaking last night in Paris, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the recent terrorist attacks in south Lebanon will force Israel to reexamine the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] deployment in the area and the possibilities of retaliation against terrorists north of the security zone. Over the next few days, the prime minister will hold a series of consultations with defense establishment officials in order to discuss all these issues. Our political correspondent in Paris Udi Segal reports:

[Begin recording] [Segal] Tomorrow, Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, will convene a debate, with the participation of senior IDF officers, in order to discuss ways to prevent Hizballah shelling of IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] outposts in the security zone from outside the area. Prime Minister Rabin was reacting to the serious incident which occurred in south Lebanon yesterday.

[Rabin] This will force us to reexamine things, as well as our own deployment, because there are difficulties in dealing with fire directed against us from outside the security zone. I have no doubt that I will also convene a debate on our modus operandi.

[Segal] Prime Minister Rabin reiterated that Syria is not preventing Hizballah activity and even permitted the free traffic of weapons through its territory to the organization's bases. At the same time, Rabin said, there is no room for Israel to issue any ultimatum to the Syrians via the United States.

[Rabin] I do not want the Syrians to bang on the table and say that as long as the IDF is deployed in Lebanon, they will not negotiate. Therefore, I suggest fewer ultimatums. The security zone is part of our policy, and no one ever promised that it would not extract a heavy toll until we reach a political solution. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rabin-Husayn Summit May Occur in Egypt in Oct

TA0707100594 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Jul 94 p 9

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Smadar Peri]

[Excerpt] The first public encounter between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and King Husayn of Jordan may take place in three months on Egyptian soil, under the aegis of President Mubarak, and not in Washington as planned.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT has learned from a senior personality in Cairo that the public encounter, which is due to be held in October, was discussed in yesterday's Husayn-Mubarak summit in Alexandria. The personality explained that King Husayn will find it convenient to lean on Mubarak's sturdy shoulders before publicly shaking Rabin's hand. Mubarak, on his part, would like to preside over the event that will fully normalize Amman-Jerusalem relations. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Damascus Declaration Foreign Ministers Convene

Kuwaiti Minister Gives Opening Address

LD0507125094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0946 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Kuwait City, 5 Jul (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah [al-Ahmad] al-Jabir [al-Sabah], Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, called here today on the international community to put pressure on the Iraqi regime to make it implement all the UN resolutions relating to the war for the liberation of Kuwait, particularly Resolution 833.

Shaykh Sabah also stressed the need to put an end to the infighting going on in Yemen and stop the shedding of Arab blood. He warned of the serious repercussions of this fighting on security and stability in the region.

The first deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: The [Damascus Declaration foreign ministers] meeting is an opportunity to consult one another, coordinate on various regional and international issues, and examine anything that could boost the action process within the framework of the Damascus Declaration. He added: "The process started essentially from an absolute rejection of the policy of aggression represented by the Iraqi regime's invasion and occupation of my country at dawn on 2 August 1990."

He further said that the policy of aggression was a blatant violation of Arab, Muslim, and international norms and conventions. He pointed out that the process was also launched, "as a result of that bitter experience," to

formulate an honorable Arab position based on legitimacy and adhering to its principles and charters, in policy and attitude.

In his opening speech to the ninth meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration member states today, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad stressed that the Iraqi regime is still following a selective policy in its commitments to the UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to its aggression on the state of Kuwait [passage indistinct].

The Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister expressed his concern over the developments of the dramatic situation in Yemen resulting from the continued fighting which has cost many lives. He talked about the suffering of the inhabitants of Aden as a result of the siege, the destruction and the persistent shelling. He added: "We all embarked, the minute the dispute worsened between the two sides, on serious and sincere attempts to contain the dispute and prevent an escalation of the situation which in turn would ruin any chances of dialogue and undermine the higher national interest of the children of the Yemeni people."

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad further said: "The UN Security Council Resolutions 924 and 931 were adopted to express the will of international legitimacy and its attempt to end the dramatic situation in which the Yemeni people are living. This is the will we are endeavoring to support and are confirming our commitment to." He warned of the consequences of the continuation of the fighting between the two sides which will lead to serious complications for security and stability in the region. He said in this respect: "We must stress our demand for a commitment to international legitimacy regarding this deteriorating situation, proceeding from our firm belief that the infighting is a violation of this legitimacy."

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad described the agreement signed between the Palestinians and Israel last May on self-rule in Gaza and Jericho and the Palestinian authority assuming their administration as a first step toward a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East. He, however, underlined that the agreement must be accompanied by real progress on all the bilateral negotiation tracks, particularly the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, so that complete withdrawal may take place from the Palestinian and Arab lands occupied since 1967, including holy Jerusalem. He stressed that the desired success of the peace process is fundamentally linked to an Israeli pledge to withdraw from the Syrian Arab Golan Heights, and to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Shaykh Ahmad expressed concern over the persistence of the dispute between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Iran over the three islands despite an appeal by UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan to resolve the dispute by means of direct dialogue and negotiations. In this respect he said: We are looking forward to a positive response to this initiative on the part of the Islamic Republic of Iran so as to set off together toward cordial and constructive relations based on good-neighborliness, mutual respect, non-interference in the domestic affairs of others, and respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of states.

In his address Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad also expressed concern over the persisting unstability in Somalia, and urged all sides to give priority to the interest of the Somali people so as to bring about a national reconciliation. He urged the fighting parties in Afghanistan to seek arbitration in reason and dialogue to put an end to the painful scenes and internecine fighting between brothers. He called on the international community to shoulder its responsibility to put an end to the Serb forces challenging international legality, and the UN Security Council to enable the Republic of Bosnia to exercise its legitimate right to self-defense.

Following the address of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the conference room was evacuated to enable the ministers to hold their working session in the presence of the accompanying delegations.

Musa: No Talk on South Yemen Recognition

LD0507224194 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2112 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 5 Jul (KUNA)— Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa denied tonight that the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers have discussed the issue of recognizing the southern part of Yemen.

In remarks to journalists Musa said that the situation in Yemen was discussed as a whole. He stated that in their morning and evening working sessions the ministers discussed all the topics on the agenda, particularly developments in the situation in Yemen and those of interest to the Arabs. He explained that everyone is anxious that clear and serious positions should be adopted on all problems, including the conflict in Yemen.

He denied that there is any disparity of opinion among the Damascus Declaration member states over the issues on the agenda. He said: "There is no contradiction, nor can I say that there is any contradiction in the member states' positions."

In earlier statements the Egyptian foreign minister had stressed that his country rejected the imposition of unity by force in Yemen. [passage omitted]

Ministers Issue Final Communique

LD0607190494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1356 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Kuwait, 6 Jul (KUNA)—In a final communique following the ninth conference of their foreign ministers, the Damascus Declaration states have condemned the Iraqi regime for its incomplete compliance with the

resolutions of international legitimacy, its repeated expansionist claims on Kuwait, its nonrecognition of Kuwait's sovereignty and borders, its threatening of Kuwait's independence, and its endangering of the region's security.

The communique issued at the end of the two-day meeting laid stress on respect for the sovereignty and independence of Kuwait, according to the second paragraph of Resolution 687, and for its international borders as decided by Security Council Resolution 833.

The foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states appealed to the Security Council to continue its pressure on the Iraqi regime until the regime fully complies with all relevant resolutions of international legitimacy and especially those relating to the borders with Kuwait, the release of prisoners of war, the payment of reparations, and the undertaking not to carry out or support any terrorist or subversive activity.

The ministers also stressed "their strong interest in the unity, safety, and territorial integrity of Iraq and their sympathy with the Iraqi people in their ordeal, the full responsibility for which lies with the Iraqi regime as a result of its refusal to implement Security Council resolutions."

The ministers welcomed the decision of the International Court of Justice on the dispute between Qatar and Bahrain and expressed their satisfaction at the welcome that both countries have accorded this decision.

Concerning the three Gulf islands disputed between Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE], the ministers expressed their profound regret at Iran's failure to respond to the UAE's calls for a serious and direct dialogue to end the dispute. They also renewed their support and backing for the UAE's sovereignty over the three islands.

Referring to the peace process in the Middle East, the final communique expressed the Damascus Declaration states' support for the just demands of both Syria and Lebanon to recover the whole of their occupied territories and stressed the importance of abiding by the basis and rules of the Madrid conference, international legitimacy, and the comprehensiveness and fairness of peace. It also stressed the necessity for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights beyond the fourth line of June 1967 as soon as possible.

The communique expressed concern at the developments in Somalia, Afghanistan, and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The ministers agreed to hold their next conference in Egypt.

The following is the text of the communique:

Their highnesses and excellencies the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states held their ninth meeting on 5 and 6 July in the State of Kuwait under the chairmanship of His Excellency Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The meeting was attended by His Excellency Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs; His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahrain's foreign minister; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister; His Excellency Faruq al-Shar'a, Syria's foreign minister; His Excellency Yusuf Bin-al-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs in the Sultanate of Oman; His Excellency Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin- Jabr Al Thani, Qatar's foreign minister; and His Excellency 'Amr Musa, Egypt's foreign minister. His Excellency Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi, secretary general of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], also participated in the meeting.

The ministers expressed their thanks and gratitude to Kuwait—its amir, government, and people—for the kind reception and hospitality they were accorded, as well as their happiness and admiration for achievements in reconstructing what the evil Iraqi invasion destroyed. The ministers had witnessed the distressing effects of the invasion during a previous meeting in Kuwait after liberation.

The ministers welcomed a ruling by the International Court of Justice on 1 July on the dispute between the two sisterly countries—Bahrain and Qatar—and expressed their satisfaction at the welcome accorded by the two states to the court's ruling. They stressed the need to solve disputes by peaceful means and on the basis of international law.

The ministers reviewed the Iraqi regime's continued policy of procrastination and selective attitude toward Security Council resolutions pertaining to its aggression against Kuwait. The ministers noticed that the Iraqi regime is aiming in this way to fragment these resolutions and to slip away from implementing combined international commitments, which represent legal and political unity, imposed upon it.

The ministers condemned the Iraqi regime for not abiding fully by international resolutions related to its aggression and for violating cease-fire conditions specified in Resolution 687 by reiterating expansionist claims on Kuwait, not recognizing its sovereignty and borders, threatening its independence, and endangering the region's security.

The ministers confirmed that respect for the sovereignty and independence of Kuwait, as stated in Paragraph Two of Resolution 687, and respect for its international borders as laid down by the Security Council in Resolution 833, represent the core of commitments contained in Resolution 687.

The ministers called on the Security Council to continue exerting pressure on the Iraqi regime so that it might abide fully by all related international resolutions, particularly recognition of the international borders

between the two countries, release of prisoners of war, Kuwaiti detainees, and citizens from other countries, payment of compensation, and undertaking not to commit, support, or carry out any acts of terrorism or subversion.

The ministers reiterated their strong interest in the unity, safety, and territorial integrity of Iraq and their sympathy with the Iraqi people in their ordeal, the full responsibility for which lies with the Iraqi regime as a result of its refusal to implement Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712, dealing with Iraq's needs for food and medicine.

The ministers reviewed developments in ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran. They expressed deep regret at the Islamic Republic of Iran's failure to respond to repeated calls by the UAE, particularly the initiative by President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, to hold a serious and direct dialogue to end Iranian occupation of the three islands—Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa—which belong to the UAE according to international laws—on the basis of good neighborliness and mutual respect between the countries. The ministers reiterated their support and backing for the UAE's sovereignty over the three islands.

The ministers reviewed the stages through which the peace process has passed since the Madrid conference and the point it has reached at the present time. They noticed, with deep concern, the stalemate in negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks because of Israeli intransigence and Israel's refusal to implement the principles agreed upon at the peace conference in Madrid and the principle of land for peace.

Discussing the self-rule agreement signed in Cairo as a first step on the road of peace, the ministers stressed that the core of the peace process lies in realizing a just and comprehensive peace on all tracks, and especially on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

The ministers also noted the increasing rigidity of the Israeli position in the recent period and the escalation of its aggressive and provocative practices in the occupied Arab territories and against Syria and Lebanon in particular.

They stress the importance of adherence to the basis and rules of the Madrid conference, international legitimacy, and the fairness and comprehensiveness of peace which is linked to the achievement of a total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem, the Golan, and south Lebanon.

In line with their support for and their continuous contribution to the peace process, the ministers expressed their backing for both Syria and Lebanon and their support for their just demands in recovering the whole of their occupied territories in implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the principle of land for peace. In this respect the ministers of the Damascus Declaration states stressed that an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan to beyond the fourth line of June 1967 must take place in the shortest period possible.

The ministers deplored Israel's continued aggression against Lebanon and its attempt to arrive at separate settlements, stressing their countries' adherence to the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace, in accordance with the UN resolutions, as the only way to ensure the security and stability of all countries of the area.

The ministers called upon the United States and the Russian Federation, co-sponsors of the peace process, to exert their utmost efforts to bring the peace process out of stagnation. They expressed the hope that the next tour of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in the area will bring about positive results and tangible progress and will push the peace process foward in order to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement.

Their excellencies the ministers have commissioned his excellency the foreign minister of Kuwait, in his capacity as chairman of this meeting, to inform the United States and Russia, as co-sponsors of the peace conference, of the deep concern of the Damascus Declaration states over the stagnation of the negotiations on the Syrian and the Lebanese tracks as a result of Israel's intransigence and its refusal to implement the principle of land for peace.

The ministers also expressed their concern at the recent developments in Somalia and appealed to the Somali leaders to put the national interest first in order to ensure the achievement of peace and security in sisterly Somalia.

The ministers expressed their concern at the escalation of fighting in Afghanistan and appealed to all Afghan leaders to halt the fighting and resort to dialogue to protect the interests of the Afghan people.

The ministers have followed with great concern the continued tragedy of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina caused by the policy of aggression and ethic cleansing of the Serbian forces and their determination to challenge international legality and violate the UN Charter in a bid to impose a de facto situation. The ministers, while reiterating their condemnation of Serbian aggression, again urged the Security Council and the international community to enable the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina to exercise their legitimate right to self-defense, in accordance with Chapter 51 of the UN Charter, by lifting the arms embargo, tightening the sanctions on the Serbs, bringing concerted pressure to bear upon Serbia and Montenegro, and making sure that aggression is not rewarded.

In this context, the ministers reiterated their support for the decision taken by the Nonaligned Movement foreign ministers in Cairo in June 1994 when they called for an international conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina, under the aegis of the United Nations, in order to secure an

immediate cease-fire and to declare the whole territory of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina safe by guaranteeing its sovereignty, independence, and the integrity of its territories and reaching a just settlement among all parties.

The ministers agreed to convene their next meeting in Egypt following an invitation from that country.

'Special' Statement on Yemeni Situation

LD0607134194 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1255 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Kuwait, 6 Jul (KUNA)—Damascus Declaration states in a seperate statement today condemned the continued fighting in Yemen and called for it to be stopped and for peaceful means and dialogue to be resorted to. Qatar expressed reservations on the statement, which was a special one issued on the situation in Yemen.

The foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states expressed their deep sorrow because the forces of the Yemen Republic did not respond to repeated calls by Arab and international organizations to stop fighting. The ministers also expressed their concern about the dangers of the continuation of the war, the shedding of blood of innocent Yemenis, and the destruction of national achievements.

They warned that there are financial signs of foreign intervention which would endanger the interests of Arab states in general and that of Arab Gulf Cooperation Council states in particular.

The ministers said in the statement, read out by the head of the Kuwaiti delegation—Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin—that maintaining Yemen unity must be based on the consent of the two parties and not through war and the use of arms.

The Damascus Declaration states deplored the continuation of the fighting between the two sides and denounced the failure to abide by the cease-fire and the continued fighting [words indistinct].

The foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states called upon the Yemeni leaders to put the interests of their country and their people above all other considerations. They urged them to respond immediately to Security Council Resolutions 924 and 931 and also to abide by the agreement signed between the two sides in Moscow at the end of last month.

In their statement the ministers stressed that, if there is no response to these repeated and successive appeals, and if combat operations continue, "their countries will be obliged to take the appropriate steps to deal with the emerging facts, in order to eliminate the pretext for the continuation of the war, regardless of the justifications, and to protect Yemeni, Arab, and international interests."

The Damascus Declaration states have decided to send urgent humanitarian aid to the population of the besieged city of Aden. They also appealed to the international community to assist Aden with the necessary humanitarian relief.

The statement alluded to "the reservations of Qatar on the statement in respect of the situation in Yemen, although Qatar declares its absolute respect for and abidance by Security Council Resolutions 924 and 931."

Qatari Minister Dissents From Yemen Statement

LD0607181594 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1620 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Kuwait, 6 Jul (KUNA)— Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani has said that [word indistinct] his country does not want to be the "judge or decision-maker on the division in Yemen" and rejects any cooperation that would lead to the country's split. Qatar has announced its reservations on the final statement on Yemen by the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states.

Speaking to reporters about his country's reservations on the statement, the minister said that Qatar has always stressed its support for international legitimacy resolutions and the Security Council.

"At the same time, Qatar does not want to be the judge or the decision-maker on the division of Yemen," he added. "The Yemeni people expressed their view on unity in free elections and, if they want anything other than that, we must hear it through the legitimate channels that exist in Yemen," he said.

He indicated that unity is a pan-Arab and Gulf demand, stressing that his country "will not cooperate against unity or in what is happening now in splitting Yemen."

Asked which party bears responsibility for the continuation of the fighting and the plight of the innocent, he said: "The fighting must stop immediately. They must resort to reason and parties to the dispute must meet to resolve the disagreement." [passage indistinct]

Kuwaiti Minister on S. Yemen Recognition

LD0607211494 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Jul 94

[News conference by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on the outcome of the ninth conference of foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states, with unidentified correspondents in Kuwait on 6 July—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Sabah] At the end of this meeting, I would like to say that it was a good meeting. At the same time, there may a number of you who believe that there were many

differences in this meeting. I would like to say that there are no differences, except in points of views. There are no differences of substance.

You heard the final communique, you heard the Qatari reservation. The Qatari reservation does not concern the substance as much as the method. Because of that, there are no differences among the Damascus Declaration states and, God willing, it will be the beginning of more cooperation. As you know, the next meeting will be in Cairo.

I know you will ask about the Egyptian paper. The Egyptian paper was presented to Kuwait on 27 June. It was sent to the countries a few days, about seven or eight days, before the meeting and there was not enough time for these countries to study this paper. In fact, it was agreed that, within the next three months, financial experts will meet to study this paper and they will present the outcome to their governments, ahead of the next meeting in Cairo, for states to voice their opinions on it and decide on the steps we are able to take.

[Correspondent] The Qatari minister said that he did not want to be a judge in the call for a split and, because of that, announced his reservations. Was there anything in the final communique which called for a split?

[Al-Sabah] We did not think of anything that was related to a split. That is one of the rights of the Yemeni people and not ours. We are against the fighting and against what is happening now in Yemen. Unity has never come about through the use of military force. Military force never created unity. Because of that, the difference is when we say we are not against unity, but we support it. But unity cannot be imposed by the use of arms.

[Correspondent] Shaykh Sabah, what is your comment on the latest military developments in Yemen and reports that northern troops have entered Aden and al-Mukalla?

[Al-Sabah] Actually, we are sorry to hear such reports because what we are hearing means that the victims will be in the hundreds—hundreds will be killed. In that context, we will not approve of it and it will not be in anyone's interest—neither in Yemen's nor in ours. So, you have heard that Damascus Declaration states will take measures when the situation ends in tragedy and when the Security Council resolutions expire without being implemented. We will take measures which are, perhaps, the recognition of the Republic of Yemen.

[Correspondent] So recognition of the republic is possible?

[Al-Sabah] If the Security Council resolutions are not implemented and even the appeals by other countries are not heeded.

[Correpondent] Is there a time scale?

[Al-Sabah] There is no time scale. There are Security Council resolutions and there are representatives of the UN secretary general, so we hope that during this period there will be a solution and we do not have to resort to recognition. We would like there to be a dialogue between the parties concerned to find a solution to the problems and not through fighting.

[Correspondent] Shaykh Sabah, do you think there will be a solution after all international and Arab talks have failed?

[Al-Sabah] We hope so. You and I all hope for a solution.

[Correspondent] Will you go to Moscow and Washington, as the conference commissioned you, to express the concern of...

[Al-Sabah, interrupting] I was not commissioned to go there as much as I was commissioned to contact Washington and ...[pauses] I will do that.

League Sends Team to Sanaa, Hopes for Resolution

NC0607180994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stated that a delegation from the League's General Secretariat will travel tomorrow, Thursday, to Sanaa.

He said that the delegation will carry a message from him to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the League's stand regarding present conditions in Yemen.

The secretary general held a news conference today in which he said that the date for the delegation's departure was confirmed after he received a message from Mr. Ahmad Luqman, Yemen's permanent representative to the Arab League, in which he informed him that Yemen welcomes the visit by the League's delegation. In the message, he asked the League to help resolve the water crisis in the city of Aden.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added that the League is ready to contribute toward resolving this problem within the scope of its capabilities and in agreement with the member countries.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid expressed his deep regrets over the deteriorating stand in Yemen and the continued fighting. He said that the League is exerting all its efforts to stop the bloodshed and fighting there.

Answering a question on Sanaa's rejection of any external intervention in Yemen because it considers what is happening an internal issue of concern to Yemen only, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid expressed his belief that this point—that the conflict is an internal issue—has been scrapped forever. In this regard, he noted Sanaa's welcome of the Arab League's efforts and the visit of its delegation.

On whether the delegation is carrying new proposals with it, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the delegation is carrying a written message to President 'Ali 'Abdallah

Salih. After that, the next step will be decided. He affirmed that the delegation's mission is to supervise the mechanism for a cease-fire and implement Security Council Resolutions 924 and 931 on Yemen.

The Arab League secretary general condemned the tragic conditions the people of Aden are living under. He wondered how Sanaa could subject the residents of Aden to such conditions.

He clarified that there is complete coordination and cooperation between the Arab League and the United Nations. The objective is to put an end to the fighting in Yemen. He noted that he had received a telephone call from Lakhdar Brahimi, the UN envoy to Yemen, in this regard.

Answering a question on whether the Arab League's delegation will meet with officials from the south, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid expressed his hopes that the delegation will be able to travel to Aden to view conditions there. He stressed that if the delegation travels to Aden it will be for humanitarian reasons, not military ones.

He said that there is cooperation and understanding with the Yemeni government—that is, Sanaa. He clarified that actions are constrained by the difficult and complicated framework.

'Abd-al-Majid affirmed the Arab League's determination to exert every possible effort to alleviate the suffering of the brothers in Yemen and put an end to the fighting there. The success of the delegation in its mission depends to a large extent on the response from the Yemeni sides. He said the United Nations is currently concentrating on trying to dispatch international observers, but so far this has not been possible.

Answering a question on whether the differences between Sanaa and Aden regarding setting up a cease-fire mechanism have been resolved, the Arab League secretary general said that Security Council Resolution 931 covers this matter. This resolution is the framework within which we are acting. He clarified that contacts are taking place with those countries that are ready to send international observers to Yemen. However, the United Nations has so far not come to a decision in this regard.

Regarding whether some Arab countries had agreed to send observers, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that there is neither agreement or rejection so far. The issue is still being discussed and contacts are being held.

Answering a question on the effect of reports that Aden has fallen on conditions in the city, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed that these reports will lead to greater danger and escalation in the situation, in addition to greater suffering being inflicted on the Yemeni people. He noted that the sooner the fighting stopped and the greater the Arab efforts and contacts are, the better the hope is to prevent a deterioration in the situation.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Head: 'Draft Plan' Ready for Afghanistan

LD0207191894 Tehran IRNA in English 1829 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] Islamabad, July 2, IRNA—Secretary-General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO], Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid stressing the need for intra-Afghan dialogue, said here today that his organisation was ready to "provide a framework and mechanism" for this purpose.

Al-Ghabid, who arrived here early today at the head of an OIC delegation to hold consultations with Afghan leaders on the situation in their war-ravaged country, in a statement at the airport said that he had proposed a meeting of the leaders of all Afghan groups, "at a mutually acceptable date and venue", so that they could sort out their differences through negotiations.

At the airport, al-Ghabid was greeted by Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali.

Ali a few days back had told journalists that OIC had drawn up a "draft plan" for restoring peace in Afghanistan and intended to host an intra-Afghan conference to deliberate on the proposed plan.

The secretary general said that the preliminary response to his suggestion for an intra-Afghan conference, "is a source of encouragement".

He appealed to all Afghan parties to cease armed hostilities with immediate effect and observe a permanent ceasefire as the crisis cannot be resolved militarily.

Al-Ghabid is scheduled to meet Afghan leaders in Peshawar and may proceed to Afghanistan to meet other Afghan leaders including President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar.

He said though his visit to Pakistan was primarily aimed at intensifying OIC efforts for restoring peace in Afghanistan, he would also exchange views with Pakistani leadership on all issues concerning Muslim ummah.

To a question on the Kashmir dispute, he supported the Kashmiris' struggle for their right to self determination and called for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions which are gathering dust due to India's refusal to come to terms with the reality.

The OIC chief arrived here Saturday evening to hold talks with the Afghan leaders on a "draft plan".

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali had said a few days back that the OIC planned to convene a conference of Afghan leaders to deliberate on the proposed plan. However, he did not elaborate on the draft formula.

He said Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia had assured support for OIC efforts.

OIC has set up a permanent liaison office for Afghanistan in Islamabad in a bid to augment its efforts for restoring peace in war-battered Afghanistan that has been scene of worst civil war since Islamic groups take over powers from Communist regime in 1992.

Talks Begin With Afghan Party Leaders

LD0307200194 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Islamabad, 3 Jul—Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], today began a series of consultations with leaders of Afghan political parties within the context of an ICO initiative aimed at reaching a cease-fire and starting a real peace process leading to a settlement that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Afghan people and takes into account their values and traditions.

A news statement released by the ICO today said that, within this context, the ICO secretary general held separate meetings with Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, former Afghan president and leader of the Afghan National Liberation Front, Mr. Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, leader of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, and Shaykh Asef Mohseni, leader of the Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement of Afghanistan].

During the meetings, the officials exchanged various points of view and held in-depth talks on starting a peace process that would restore peace and security in Afghanistan under the auspices of the ICO.

Dr. al-Ghabid expressed satisfaction at the support and encouragement he met from the officials he held talks with within the framework of his efforts to end the conflict between the brothers in Afghanistan.

A number of practical proposals were discussed during these talks and will be submitted to the Afghan leaders whom al-Ghabid intends to meet in Peshawar and in Afghanistan at a later stage.

IDB To Finance Moroccan Oil Pipeline Construction

LD0407111994 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0858 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 3 Jul [date as received] (SPA)—An agreement was signed yesterday at the headquarters of the Islamic Development Bank [IDB] in Jeddah between the IDB and the Kingdom of Morocco, according to which the bank will finance the purchasing of equipment for the construction of an oil pipeline between the towns of Mohammedia and Sidi Kacem to the value of $25,740 million. [passage omitted]

The new pipeline will cover a distance of more than 200 km and will have numerous uses, among which is to carry crude oil from Mohammedia port to the refinery at Sidi Kacem and return the refined proucts to Mohammedia for distribution or export.

The pipeline will carry 3 million tonnes of oil a year, while the capacity of the old pipeline, which has been in use for 50 years, reached 1.2 million tonnes. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Claims New Government 'Bankrupt'

AU0707110794 Vienna NEWS in German 7 Jul 94 p 94

[Interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by unidentified NEWS correspondent; place and date not given: "I Am Bankrupt"]

[Text] [NEWS] This is your first visit to Palestine after 27 years in exile. How do you feel?

['Arafat] I am deeply moved. A dream has come true. I did not expect this euphoria, this joy.

[NEWS] People expect miracles from you—a rapid reconstruction of the economy, and social security. Are your pockets full of money?

['Arafat] No. We are bankrupt. We have been promised millions (Austria has promised 200 million schillings—editor), but nothing has been paid out yet, neither by the United States, nor Europe, nor the World Bank. I do not even have the money to pay my soldiers and officials. They have not received any salaries for six months, but they remain loyal to our common cause.

[NEWS] The World Bank will not pay until you have drawn up exact plans and budget estimates.

['Arafat] The World Bank wants to dictate terms. It names conditions that we cannot accept. We do not want to place our fate in the hands of others. We will manage, even if we have to go hungry, and our success will encourage support.

[NEWS] You want to have your own country with Jerusalem as its capital?

['Arafat] Yes, we want Jerusalem. Jerusalem can be the capital of the Jews and the Palestinians. After all, Rome is the capital of Italy, and it also accommodates the Vatican.

[NEWS] Until now, you have been active as sole leader of the PLO. What about in the future?

['Arafat] We are a democratic organization. Free elections will be held in the autumn, after which we will redistribute tasks.

[NEWS] The so-called Autonomy Council will comprise 25 ministries. The Foreign Ministry will remain in Tunis, as well as your Defense Ministry. That is a rather bloated apparatus.

['Arafat] We are starting from scratch, everything must be shaped anew. Laws, tax rules, and so on. We do not even have all the forms with which to administer the

autonomy. The political deed has largely been completed. Now it is time to implement the administrative deed.

Sha'th: 'Arafat-Rabin Paris Meeting 'Positive'

JN0707104994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, development and international cooperation officer in the Palestinian National Authority, in Paris, by Sa'id Mu'addi in Jerusalem on 7 July; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, in Paris, what agreements did Rabin and 'Arafat reach?

[Sha'th] The principal agreement was to immediately start the negotiations over the second phase of the implementation of the Declaration of Principles, which was signed in Washington on 13 September 1993, now that the negotiations over the first stage—Gaza and Jericho—have been completed and after the implementation started on the ground. There is a new phase, which will start on Monday 11 July, in Cairo and will seek to complete all that remained of the issues related to Gaza and Jericho, particularly the release of the detainees, with special emphasis on our detained sisters, and all the other remaining issues; and also to immediately start negotiations on spreading the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, or the so-called early transfer of powers. This will herald the beginning of the implementation of the interim agreement, including issues related to financing, elections, and others. This agreement will be the beginning for negotiations in the next phase.

[Mu'addi] Subcommittees were set up for this purpose. How will these subcommittees work?

[Sha'th] Their work will be to negotiate. They, of course, are part of integrated teams which will set up subcommittees, and they will all seek to achieve a comprehensive agreement.

[Mu'addi] Has it been agreed to implement every issue on the ground if an agreement is reached on these issues, or are there any reservations on this proposal?

[Sha'th] Not every issue, but a group of issues, particularly issues related to the transfer of powers, and, of course, all the issues related to what remained of the Gaza and Jericho agreement. We wish to see a quick implementation.

[Mu'addi] How was the meeting which Rabin and 'Arafat held on the fringes of the UNESCO peace awarding ceremony?

[Sha'th] I think the meeting was positive from all aspects, both the ceremonial and those related to negotiations.

[Mu'addi] What are the future steps, Dr. Nabil? Will the negotiations resume today between the two parties?

[Sha'th] No, The negotiations actually ended at 0200 today. Each of us will now go back to his headquarters and then [we will] immediately return to the homeland and start the hard work, which we took the oath to implement, and at the same time start negotiations.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, Yasir 'Arafat has asked Rabin to release Shaykh Ahmad Yasin? What was the prime minister's reaction?

[Sha'th] The prime minister promised to consider with great care all the cases we called special, as well as the case of our detained sisters, to pave the ground to complete the release of all prisoners.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th in Paris, thank you very much.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

Sha'th: Authority To Hold Elections by End of 1994

LD0607180394 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, member of the self-rule council of the Palestinian National Authority, has said that during his meeting with Rabin in Paris President Yasir 'Arafat plans to discuss Israel's withdrawal from other cities of the West Bank and the transfer of power to the Palestinian civilian authority earlier than planned.

During a news conference he held in Jericho after members of the Palestinian authority were sworn in, Dr. Sha'th said that the agenda of the Paris Israeli-Palestinian talks will include the transfer of power to the Palestinian civilian authority in the West Bank, the quick implementation of what has been agreed in various sectors, the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from towns and villages of the West Bank, and the deployment of the Palestinian police force.

Dr. Sha'th went on to say that the two sides will also discuss the formation of a quadripartite committee, composed of the PLO, Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, to discuss the issue of Palestinian refugees.

Asked whether the Palestinian National Authority will hold elections by the end of 1994, Dr Sha'th replied: Yes, definitely.

PLF Agrees To Join Self-Rule Authority

JN0707080294 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Jul p 24

[Text] Amman—The Palestine Liberation Front's [PLF] Political Bureau and Central Committee have decided to join the self-rule authority. A statement distributed by the PLF yesterday says the decision follows consultations between the PLF and the PLO leadership.

Sha'th Comments on Peace Plan Implementation

BR0607142094 Brussels KNACK in Dutch 6-12 Jul 94 pp 96-97

[Report on interview with Nabil Sha'th, special adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Sus van Elzen in Cairo; date not given: "And Now the West Bank"]

[Text] Since the Gaza Strip and Jericho on the West Bank have been granted Palestinian transitional autonomy, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, the indispensable special adviser to PLO Chairman 'Arafat, has also been appointed minister for international cooperation and planning. He met with [Belgian Foreign] Minister Willy Claes in Cairo, and had a few minutes to spare in the morning.

The Belgians had news for him on the Gulf states. The message was that the climate there was turning in favor of the needy Palestinians, despite the difficulties which certain countries still have with the PLO and its leader policy. The Gulf states are once again willing to provide money, the flow of money which suddenly dried up when, in the eyes of the world, the PLO took the wrong side during the Gulf War against Iraq, has never got going again since. This is the main reason for the shortage of funds which has afflicted the PLO in the last couple of years. Although it is not yet clear exactly how much money will be involved, or what terms and conditions will be attached to it, it must be a welcome sign for the Palestinians that doors which it is essential to open are no longer completely closed to them.

Nabil Sha'th, not only Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and minister, but also a top negotiator with the Israelis in the peace process, traveled to the autonomous Palestine a few days ahead of his chairman, arrived in Gaza, and was able to begin, somewhere on the border between Gaza and Israel, a new round of talks with the Israelis.

[Sha'th] The Israelis were not prepared to begin at first using the argument that they first wanted to see what concrete results the Gaza and Jericho agreement would bring before moving on to the next stage. Which is in fact contrary to the agreement itself. The agreement contains no conditions and inspections which must be satisfied before moving forward. There is a clear timetable that must be respected. We are running behind schedule. Anyway, the Israelis finally saw the need to start talks immediately, and replaced chief negotiator General Shahaq by General Dani Rothschild. Previously, I met with a special envoy from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, [Environmental Protection] Minister Yosi Sarid, who came to listen to our complaints about the Israeli violations of the accord and delays in its implementation. He wanted to hear everything, and he heard everything.

I told him about their less than enthusiastic compliance with the security aspects of the accord, the delay before we were allowed to take over the border controls, the delay before the opening of a safe passage between Gaza and Jericho, the delay before the four-party commission on the return of refugees (from 1949 and 1967) finally met. And all the other delays, such as the payment of our collective taxes and withheld customs duties. Plus a couple of outright violations, such as the siege of Jericho. There was nothing in the peace accord saying they could do that: For 16 days they prevented tourist buses from entering Jericho which is so dependent on tourism. Thus with these delays and the problems they made about releasing prisoners, which for Gaza, and in the minds of the Palestinians, remains the most important and urgent question of all, I gave him a broad and also detailed picture of what we still expect from the Israelis.

The negotiations themselves look set to be pretty complicated, as is always the case with the Israelis. They must cover a number of areas: the uncompleted negotiations on Gaza-Jericho, the continued release of prisoners. Those are loose ends which need to be tied up. But there are also new items: the transfer of authority to the Palestinians in the West Bank. Elections in the West Bank. The military redeployment of the Israelis in the towns on the West Bank of the Jordan, and the positioning of the Palestinian security force. And finally, the drafting of a new peace accord for the transitional government of the West Bank and Gaza. So all of this must be placed on the agenda and meetings arranged. We will be negotiating in Cairo, in Palestine, perhaps somewhere to the north of Gaza, or perhaps alternating between Gaza and Israel. And finally, if the Syrians also join the negotiations, we may set up a symbolic committee in Washington. We will get down to work next week, the meeting between Rabin and 'Arafat in Paris will probably give the starting signal.

[Van Elzen] Israel promised to release 5,000 prisoners. How many are left?

[Sha'th] They have just released a lot, so I believe there are just a couple of hundred left.

[Van Elzen] That solves one of the problems. Or doesn't it?

[Sha'th] Yes and no. It is of course good news that they are free. But the accord provides for immediate negotiations on the release of the others. That has not begun. Why they want to keep them, I fail to see. It has nothing to do with Hamas: They have released 500 men from Hamas and Jihad, and from the Popular Front. I think they are just being spoilsports. If you are honest and stand back and look at it, then they have respected the main lines of the accord. But always with delays, with problems, with hitches, which spoil it all. If they had released the 5,000 prisoners during the first couple of weeks after signing the accord, for example, and in the orderly and organized manner they should have done, than it would have brought joy and celebration everywhere. But no, they did not want to release the names, so that we did not know who was going to be released and all the families had to wait not knowing one way or the other. Every time someone was released, thousands of

people had to pour into the street and look around to see whether their children, their husband, or their wife had been released. And so on. The delays. The changes. Yes, the accord has been implemented, but in such a way that the fruit has been spoiled.

Take Rabin's statements about the arrival of 'Arafat? Why? Before we announced that 'Arafat was going, I received official permission from Generals Rothschild and Shahak, and all the details had been worked out in a joint committee. And then Rabin says that Shahak had submitted "an application" for 'Arafat and that the matter was being looked at. What is going on? Why did he say that? This man is the leader of the liberated territories and he no longer needs permission from Rabin to return home. And he has the permission in any event! Why try to spoil things? After all that fuss about why he had stayed away so long.

I believe the reason is to make the Palestinians feel that they do not yet have full independence, that Israel is still the boss, and has to give its permission every step of the way. It is sending a signal to the Palestinians that they must not be too pleased, and to the Israeli right that life is not being made easy for the Palestinians.

[Van Elzen] So you are confident that the West Bank of the Jordan is also going to be on the agenda?

[Sha'th] Certainly. I have no doubts about that. But when? It must not be any later than October. If it is any later.... According to the accord we signed in Washington, it should have been on 13 July. We were a month behind schedule with the negotiations, and now we are another six weeks behind, which makes, speaking realistically and not legally, two and a half months to the end of September or the beginning of October. So I would say that by around mid-October, the Israelis should have left the towns and villages to security installations on the outside, and we must then hold elections.

[Van Elzen] After the slaughter in Hebron, the question of the Jewish settlers is more pressing than ever. Is it already on your agenda?

[Sha'th] No, it is not officially on the agenda, because by the terms of the accord the question of the settlers is postponed until a permanent solution is discussed. But in reality it is always on the agenda. By the terms of the accord, talks on the final stage must begin on 13 October 1995 at the very latest, that is within one year and a few months. But technically they could begin tomorrow. So we will have to see what happens, I am not expecting to discuss the matter at the moment. I would first like to see how negotiations on the West Bank proceed, and depending on that we could perhaps make an early start on the next stage.

[Van Elzen] What has stopped 'Arafat from returning for so long?

[Sha'th] So long? Six weeks. I believe he had to take a number of factors into account. One was the the accord implementation. When I went to Jericho, I was shocked when I discovered all these roadblocks and violations of the accord. I openly said at the time that I would not advise 'Arafat to go to Jericho in such circumstances. There was also the question of money, and the delay with the financial transfers. He repeatedly stated: "I am not going there as a new Gorbachev," who made so many promises and finally did so little. But finally I believe he decided that the time had come when he had to go. This time it is just for a short visit. But he will soon be back. It is wonderful to return. I enjoy being back in Gaza. I only left to make the necessary arrangements for his visit.

[Van Elzen] What surprised you when you arrived in Gaza?

[Sha'th] I had heard so much, from visitors to Gaza, how poor and how dirty it was, how hungry and how desperate the people were, that it turned out to be better than expected. It is not in fact so poor and so dirty, there are real possibilities. You are between two seas: the beach of the Mediterranean (the fishermen are allowed to fish there again) and the sea of the people's joy and expectation.

'Arafat's 'Quick' Return to Gaza Examined

JN0607182394 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 5 Jul 94 p 15

[By Khalil Khurmah]

[Text] Amman—AL-BAYAN has learned that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's decision to immediately return to the self-rule areas was mainly prompted by Jordan's decision to expedite negotiations with Israel on the Jordanian track, the results of last month's meetings of the Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli committee in Washington, and the agreement to resume [Jordanian-Israeli] negotiations during the second half of this month. Originally, it had been planned that 'Arafat would wait until the end of this year to pressure the donor nations into offering the aid that they have promised for the self-rule areas.

Leading Palestinian sources revealed to the AL-BAYAN correspondent in Amman that 'Arafat's decision was made after he received an urgent and confidential report indicating that an agreement has been reached in Washington between Jordan and Israel on reviving the United Arab Kingdom project, which provides for the establishment of a federation, rather than a confederation, between Jordan and Palestine.

The sources said that soon after receiving this report, 'Arafat headed for Cairo, having felt that this Jordanian-Israeli agreement had pulled the rug from under his feet.

The sources said that this was the real reason behind 'Arafat's quick return to the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing rather than to Jericho through the King Husayn Bridge, as had been originally planned.

The aforementioned report, according to leading Palestinian sources, indicates that the United Arab Kingdom project, which was approved in Washington, does not refer to a Palestinian state, a Palestinian entity, or even to Yasir 'Arafat himself. Rather, it talks about a Palestinian region with limited sovereignty and authority to be run by West Bank and Gaza Strip personalities, such as Faysal al-Husayni, under the domain of the United Arab Hashemite Kingdom.

According to these sources, this report was the reason the Palestinian president refrained from addressing thanks to King Husayn during the speech he delivered in Gaza on Friday [1 July]. In his speech, 'Arafat thanked the Egyptian and Tunisian presidents for their support for the PLO.

Islamic Jihad Member Denounces 'Arafat's Visit

NC0507200494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Report by correspondent in Beirut Muhammad Bishkar]

[Text] In the first reaction of the Palestinian opposition to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in the Jericho area this morning, Dr. Fathi al-Shiqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, said in a telephone call we had with him today that 'Arafat's visit to Jericho, like his visit to Gaza derives from the Oslo Accord, which annuls the Palestinian people's rights and gives the Israelis everything. The visit, he added, primarily aims to satisfy the Israeli desires and ambitions because it takes place under Israeli bayonets and in the presence of the Zionist army and settlements.

Al-Shiqaqi said the constitutional oath of 'Arafat and members of the self-rule Authority in Jericho today is no more than a television show that has no political significance, because that Authority does not go beyond the jurisdiction of municipalities. He remarked: We have not heard before of municipality council members taking a political oath like states do.

Replying to a question on 'Arafat's call in his address after he arrived in Jericho for Palestinian opposition movements to meet with him, Dr. al-Shiqaqi said:

[Begin al-Shiqaqi recording] We will not respond to this call. We disagree over the agreement, the stand on occupation, and over the continuation of jihad. We do not see any common denominator between him and us.... [sentence not completed] [end recording]

The Palestinian opposition forces denounced 'Arafat's visit to the limited self-rule areas in Gaza and Jericho. They said the visit was a link in a chain of capitulation and humiliation after he ['Arafat] bowed to Zionist conditions for the visit.

'Arafat Invites Mitterrand To Visit Gaza, Jericho

LD0607221694 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 2030 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Yasir 'Arafat took advantage of his visit to Paris to invite President Mitterrand to visit Gaza and Jericho. 'Arafat's statement was recorded by Dominique Andre and translated by Layla Shahid, the PLO representative in France:

[Begin 'Arafat recording, in Arabic with superimposed French translation] On behalf of my Palestinian people, I invited President Mitterrand to visit Gaza and Jericho, the first step [words indistinct]. I can proudly say that, as always, the president will be at the side of the Palestinian people, championing peace as he has always done. [end recording]

The negotiations between 'Arafat and the Israeli leaders will continue this evening. Prime Minister Edouard Balladur will receive Mr. 'Arafat at midday tomorrow.

Hamas Spokesman Criticizes Gaza Police Activities

PM0607114694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Jul 94 p 5

[Interview with Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, spokesman for Hamas in the Gaza Strip, by Muhammad 'Allam in Gaza; date not given]

[Text] ['Allam] Why are you not satisfied with 'Arafat's presence in Gaza?

[Al-Zahhar] We are in the first place not satisfied with all the results of the Oslo accord. This visit is one of the results, and 'Arafat's return is linked to this accord, whose features are incomplete.

['Allam] But it has been noted that the Hamas presence during 'Arafat's reception and during the delivery of his speech was substantial.

[Al-Zahhar] Regrettably, our young men in Hamas went to the area where 'Arafat delivered his speech last Friday [1 July] merely as "spectators." If they had not gone—even though we did not issue instructions for them not to go—the number of people would have been very small. This proves the scale of Hamas' presence.

['Allam] Does not the situation require that new channels be opened between the PLO and Hamas in the framework of an inter-Palestinian dialogue based on a minimum?

[Al-Zahhar] As far as we are concerned, the minimum is rebuilding and a halt to the police practices against Hamas. The Palestinian Authority has taken a position against Hamas; after two Hamas members—namely Mu'tasim Kahil and Yassar Mutayr—joined a police training camp, an officer beat them up and jailed them for 10 days. It means that the security service "belongs completely to Fatah and is dominated by families"—

which will have a negative impact. But if the authority opens its doors to all the people, there can be a minimum basis for a dialogue.

If 'Arafat espouses an Islamic program, we will pledge allegiance to him. But regrettably, he is espousing positions that are not in line with Islam. Incidentally, 'Arafat has never been a member of the Islamic Brotherhood group. Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] were.

['Allam] You criticized the Palestinian police. Do you believe its practices could lead to a confrontation?

[Al-Zahhar] If police practices continue in the same manner, matters will reach the stage of self-defense. Because some police commanders are going beyond what is logical and reasonable, like the appointments made through certain families. Regrettably, some drug and hashish traffickers and spies have been admitted to the police on the pretext of helping to arrest violators. Besides, bad statements have been made, giving the impression that agents are under protection and that the time has come for them to take revenge against honorable people—which led to the murder of Nasir Salluhah. If the situation continues as it stands, there will certainly be a confrontation.

['Allam] What are your observations about National Authority members?

[Al-Zahhar] We have very serious observations. Regrettably, there are important figures in the justice department (headed by Furayh Abu-Middayn) whose appointment we can contest, as people in the street know the bad and shameful history of these figures and their fathers and grandfathers. And in the health department (headed by Riyad Za'nun), some parasites have emerged. We invite any journalist to come and talk to citizens in the street.

Jerusalem Building Acts as 'PLO Foreign Ministry'

TA0607120194 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 6 Jul 94 p 7

[Report by Knesset correspondent Gabi Brunn]

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni has coordinated the attendance of the diplomatic corps in receptions for Yasir 'Arafat from Orient House in East Jerusalem, disregarding an explicit instruction from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

Ivory Coast Ambassador Jean-Pierre Boni, doyen of the diplomatic corps in Israel, cooperated with al-Husayni in coordinating this on behalf of the diplomatic corps in Israel. He distributed a letter with al-Husayni's instructions to diplomats and ambassadors in Israel.

Two documents that expose the activities of the PLO "foreign ministry" at Orient House reached Likud Knesset Member Eliyahu Ben-Elisar yesterday. One document, signed by Faysal al-Husayni, is written in English on official Orient House stationery, and is dated 30 June (a day before 'Arafat arrived in Gaza).

The letter says: "If it is decided to send a representative to the reception ceremony for President 'Arafat, he should be appointed by the foreign ministry of the relevant country, even if it is the ambassador himself. When a representative is named, please send the name of the participating representative to Orient House (fax No. 271620, or 285569). Please advise regarding drivers and cars that will be arriving for the ceremonies." Signing as doyen of the diplomatic corps in Israel, Ambassador Boni added a letter to this document addressed to all the heads of foreign diplomatic missions in Israel. This letter is also dated 30 June and reads: "Dear colleague, I have been asked to relay this self-evident letter to your excellency."

Knesset Member Ben-Elisar was very surprised by this letter: "There are several violations here of agreements and understandings. It appears that Orient House handles autonomy affairs and functions as a foreign ministry for all intent and purpose. It addresses the diplomatic representations here 'in the name of the state.' He is acting contrary to the promise that 'Arafat will be titled 'chairman' and, in an official letter bearing the signature of al- Husayni, calls 'Arafat 'president.' What is worse, the letter was distributed on behalf of the diplomatic corps to all the foreign representations. To me, this is yet more proof that the government is accepting facts the PLO is establishing in Jerusalem."

Police Minister Moshe Shahal was also surprised by these two documents. "My answer to al-Husayni was unequivocal, and later Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said the same things with more determination: 'You do not deal with such matters, and you are not allowed to. You will only deal with youth movements.'"

Political sources in Jerusalem said last night that a reaction to al-Husayni's acts is expected soon.

Algeria

Sifi Discusses Ties With Egypt, Security Issues

NC0107203894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 30 Jun 94

[Text] Algiers, 30 Jun (MENA)—Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi has praised Egyptian-Algerian relations. He said they are firm and profound ties reflecting the policies of the two countries' leaders, Algerian President Lamine Zeroual and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

In an exclusive interview with MENA, the Algerian prime minister noted that Egyptian-Algerian relations are old and characterized by common denominators linking the two fraternal nations. He said these ties are very good, strong, and profound and cannot be impeded by any obstacle.

Replying to a question on the date of the joint Algerian-Egyptian Committee's next session, he said Algeria is completely ready to hold the session as soon as possible. He added that the consultations he will hold with Egyptian officials during his visit to Cairo tomorrow will enable him to determine a date for the session.

Commenting on the current crisis in Algeria and the way to emerge from it, he said the difficult situation in Algeria will not prevent it from carrying out its pan-Arab duty toward the Arab nation. He remarked that Algeria is always present in the Arab arena and plays its role within the Arab family and joint Arab action.

As regards the handling of the current crisis in Algeria, he said the government is exerting all efforts on all political, economic, social, and security levels to emerge from this hardship with the least cost.

He said the Algerian Government has chosen dialogue as a civilized way to resolve its problem and added that the dialogue will be broad and will include all those who are committed to respecting the Constitution and state laws and who denounce violence. He went on: We have called and still call for national reconciliation. He noted that by participating in the Transitional National Council, the great number of Algerians and parties have chosen the desired national reconciliation.

He stressed the Algerian authorities' commitment to implementing the resolutions of the national conference that was held late January and the authorities' readiness for a dialogue with all Algerians who reject violence as means to take power or remain in power.

The Algerian prime minister said that with regard to economy, his country has boldly and firmly chosen and begun the market economy system and that it has taken into consideration the social obligations entailed by this system.

He said: We will strive to make this transitional phase flexible and to eliminate the heavy burdens on the citizens. We are also seeking to make the market economy supportive of all initiatives and creative energies for social and economic development in Algeria which is rife with important material and human resources.

As regards security, Sifi explained that his country intends to continue combating and uprooting violence and terrorism so that people will feel safe and stability and security will prevail in all parts of the country.

Sifi commented on his recent visit to Belgium, Italy, France, and Saudi Arabia, his visit to Egypt, due to begin tomorrow, and the visits of Algerian President Zeroual's envoys to the Arab Gulf states. He said: These visits were very useful and enabled us to explain the true situation in Algeria and our efforts to deal with the crisis on political, economic, and social levels. The friends and brothers showed great understanding and asserted to us their political and material support at this stage.

On Algerian foreign minister's recent visit to the United States, the Algerian prime minister said the visit was part of the consultations with U.S. officials who affirmed to us their support for the economic reforms and Algerian Government's current political course. He said the U.S. Administration explicitly stated that it is not concerned with some interpretations and comments published by the U.S. press. He added that the U.S. side also showed great interest in the various aspects of the transitional stage.

Agreements Signed With Egypt

LD0307135194 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] The first results of the visit to Cairo of Mokdad Sifi, head of government, and the delegation accompanying him have been crowned by the signing of two agreements on trade, economic, technical, and security cooperation.

The joint projects will become clearer when the Algerian-Egyptian committee meets in Algiers in mid-October.

Observers say that the first visit to Cairo by an Algerian head of government for around 10 years reflects the two countries' endeavor to reexamine bilateral relations. It is possible that Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi could visit Algeria in mid-October.

Sifi Discusses Terrorism, Moves Toward Stability

NC0607155194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jul (MENA)—Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi has stated that Algeria's current moves, which began with a visit to a number of European countries and Egypt, are meant to convey four messages to those who have doubts about the authorities' determination and ability to establish peace and ensure the country's political, social, and economic stability during

the transitional period until stability is finally established and elections are held.

In an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR to be published on Friday [8 July], he said that the four messages are: that the country is holding a dialogue with all the parties that reject violence and respect the constitution and laws; that Algeria is serious in moving to a market economy; and that Algeria is aware of the new realities, noting in this respect that Algeria is the link between the Arab homeland and Africa and that Algeria's strategic interests are bound to converge with Arab interests and with the ties with Europe.

He added that the fourth message is that Algeria is determined to fight violence and terrorism decisively until it is eliminated, noting that whatever affects Algeria will also have negative effects on the whole Arab world. He said that Algeria is not pursuing its own interests alone, but also those of its neighbors and partners who want Algeria to remain stable.

The Algerian prime minister stressed that there are noticeable gains in establishing stability and security, and he underlined the rejection of violence and the determination to eliminate it together with terrorism.

He also stressed in the interview that the national dialogue held in his country has not failed, adding that the dialogue is still open, is being managed by a transitional national committee, and that all the parties are taking part. He said that the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] is excluded from the dialogue because it is an illegal organization and because the Government does not hold talks with any element that advocates violence. He said: The FIS is split. Yet if any faction emerges that is against violence, then the state will talk to it. He said that Algeria welcomes any party that is interested in the country's future and supreme interests and condemns violence. He also stressed that the door of repentance is open to all those who condemn violence and do not use the card of terrorism and extremism.

The Algerian prime minister denied the notion that the military nature of the state has caused terrorism to spread. He said that the Government is composed of civilians, while the Army protects the Constitution and respects it like all other armies in the world.

He noted that all the measures being taken in Algeria now aim at having elections; the goal is to set up establishments within three years, after which parliamentary elections involving all the political forces will be held.

Seven Italians Reportedly Killed in Jijel

LD0707105894 Rome RAI Uno Television Network in Italian 1030 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] We have just heard that seven Italians were killed in an attack in Jijel, more than 300 km east of Algiers. The news was given by diplomatic sources in Algiers. (Rome RAI Televideo Telext in Italian at 1040 GMT on 7 July carries a similar report adding that "The [diplomatic] sources gave no further detail on the attack, but it seems that the seven people were employees of an Italian company. They were apparently killed while supervising the unloading of cereal which had arrived at the port of Jijel on a cargo ship.")

Man Sentenced for Journalist's Murder; 5 Acquitted

LD0507081694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Algiers' special judicial council Monday evening sentenced Belabbes Abdallah to 10 years imprisonment with a fine. He is accused of premeditated murder in the case of the journalist [Tahar] Djaout, which goes back to May 1993. The council also acquitted five defendants in the case. The court also acquitted Djaafar Abderrahim, who denied relations with the main defendant Belabbes Abdallah. It also acquitted Layad Abdelhak, who appeared before the court as the commander [emir] of the armed groups which operate according to his orders.

Egypt

Jordanian King Husayn Pays Brief Visit

Meets With Mubarak

NC0607130994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Alexandria, 6 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held a round of talks with Jordanian King Husayn this afternoon at Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria. The talks started immediately after they arrived at the palace and were initially restricted to the two men.

[In a Alexandria-datelined report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1220 GMT on 6 July adds the following: "President Husni Mubarak resumed his talks with Jordanian King Husayn during a luncheon banquet thrown by President Husni Mubarak in honor of the Jordanian monarch at Ra's al-Tin palace in Alexandria.

["The banquet was attended by the two delegations to the talks, the Egyptian and Jordanian."]

Leaders Hold News Conference

NC0607152794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has announced that there are direct contacts among all parties concerned with the Middle East peace process. There is no problem in this regard. Regarding the Syrian track, President Mubarak expressed his belief that some problems might crop up but the peace process will continue. This came in press statements President Mubarak and the Jordanian

monarch made at the conclusion of their talks in Alexandria. President Mubarak said: As for Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and his return to his homeland, I believe that the rest of the problems will have to be resolved. Answering a question on whether he had received a message from the Syrian president to deliver to the Jordanian monarch when he received the Syrian prime minister today, President Mubarak said he had not receive such a message. He pointed out that there is no need for mediation between Syria and Jordan. He pointed out that the two countries have direct contacts with each other.

Answering a question about the topics discussed with President Mubarak, King Husayn said the talks addressed all issues of present concern to the region. He said bilateral relations are excellent. He added: I am very grateful to President Mubarak for the opportunity to visit him and discuss all the issues—something we have gotten used to doing with frankness and clarity.

Answering a question on topics of mutual interest, the Jordanian monarch said: We are trying to hold serious talks among the concerned parties in accordance with the agreement concluded earlier this month [as heard]. We hope to cover all issues listed on the agenda as agreed upon in Washington after the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. At the same time, we hope to see some progress taking place on the remaining tracks.

King Husayn said he hopes that all the parties will attain a comprehensive and just peace.

Asked what coordination steps Jordan will discuss with Syria as it has been doing with Egypt, King Husayn replied: If we get the chance, we will do our best. We are like an open book, with nothing left to hide. We began the peace process together at the same moment. We are committed to a comprehensive and just regional peace.

Regarding the direct contacts with Syria to which he had referred despite the existence of some problems between the two countries, the Jordanian monarch remarked: Nothing precludes our having direct contacts with Syria. We have no problems at all with each other. Quite the contrary, I recently met with my brother President Hafiz al-Asad. We meet periodically and have no problems.

King Husayn continued: We and Syria are committed to a serious exchange of views about the peace process. We hope to attain a comprehensive peace. I believe that they are informed about everything we do. I do not believe that we have problems or a crisis with each other.

Asked if he expects the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations to make certain steps forward similar to those on the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating track, the Jordanian monarch said that the Palestinian track is different.

He added: I hope that our Palestinian brothers will stick together, make progress, and succeed. After all, they are the people primarily concerned with the issue.

The Jordanian king added: We are now dealing with issues connected with Jordanian sovereignty over certain territories and waters and other issues mentioned in the negotiating agenda agreed upon in Washington some time ago.

Husayn Departs After 3-Hour Visit

NC0607141494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Alexandria, 6 Jul (MENA)—Jordanian Monarch King Husayn left Alexandria this afternoon after a swift working visit of around three hours, during which he held a round of talks with President Mubarak. They resumed their talks over a working luncheon.

President Husni Mubarak saw King Husayn off at al-Nuzhah Airport.

UAE President Telephones Mubarak, Discusses Yemen

NC0607130494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan today telephoned President Muhammad Husni Mubarak as part of the constant consultations between the two presidents in the interests of the Arab nation to support its causes and strengthen its solidarity. During the telephone conversation they exchanged views on the current Arab situation, developments in the Yemen war, and new developments in the Arab arena.

Mubarak To Visit European Nations 'Next Week'

NC0707112194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1009 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak plans to conduct a tour next week of several European countries, including France, Germany, and Slovakia.

Reporting this today, AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I says the tour aims to urge European countries to expedite their contributions to development and investment projects in the region and to encourage the forces of peace to pursue the negotiations to achieve a comprehensive and just Middle East peace.

The paper adds that President Mubarak's meetings with the French, German, and Slovak leaders will deal with ways to enhance Egypt's distinguished relations with these countries and encourage European investments to participate in productive projects under Egypt's economic reform policy, which various intentional and financial institutions have noted. [passage omitted]

Musa Meets With Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud

NC0307133894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Alexandria, 3 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who is currently visiting Egypt.

Speaking after the meeting, Prince al-Faysal said that he had discussed with Minister Musa the items on the agenda of the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers' meeting, which is scheduled to be held in Kuwait on Tuesday. He noted that the views of the two countries are identical.

Regarding the continued fighting in Yemen, Prince al-Faysal said that all the Arab countries have made their position clear on this matter, and we hope the fighting will stop immediately and all problems will be solved peacefully, because the fighting cannot build unity or help preserve unity. He added that the fighting will lead to nothing but "hatred and grudges," and we do not want this to happen.

Musa: Contacts To Resolve Libyan Crisis Continue

NC0207093494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0858 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said Egypt's contacts to find a solution to the Libyan crisis have not ceased. These contacts, he clarified, are based on the need to try the suspects accused of blowing up the Lockerbie plane and to respect Security Council resolutions as well as the Libyan state's rights under valid international accords.

In a statement today, Musa said there is a Libyan proposal approved by the Arab League, the OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement on the need for a trial and that the suspects can be tried in a third country.

National Dialogue Committee Issues Recommendations

NC0607071294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jul (MENA)—The Political Committee of the National Dialogue Congress has announced that amending the Constitution is not one of the country's priorities right now. It urged adopting several steps to expand democratic practice by checking and correcting existing registered voter lists, granting a four-month period every year for new voters to register, and providing guarantees for the electoral process.

In its final recommendations today, the Committee called for abolishing some of the articles of the Political Parties Law and ensuring that the Judiciary supervises the elections.

The Committee's report called for adopting an electoral system based on proportional representation and party lists so as to ensure political pluralism and revive the role of the political parties.

The report stressed the need for cooperation among the political parties to confront extremism and terrorism, which are the greatest enemies of democracy.

The National Dialogue Congress' Political Committee started its report by noting that its members' discussions were held in an atmosphere of mutual respect and were motivated by the wish to reach an understanding among the various political groups in a way that will serve the homeland's supreme interests.

The report added that democratic practice is designed to provide an appropriate expression of the people's wishes. It emphasized its faith in the importance of Egypt's choice of democracy as the method pursued by its constitutional government system.

The report said that the national dialogue has demonstrated that the Political Committee's members found a lot of common ground despite their diverse political affiliations and positions in public life. The report noted that this showed how important it is for the political parties to be represented inside the committee.

So that voters can exercise their political rights effectively, the Committee's report urged checking and correcting the registered voters lists at specific intervals and providing a four-month period every year for the registration of new voters. The report stressed that the voter must be given the opportunity to make his opinion heard.

The report revealed that the Political Committee's members generally agreed on the following guarantees:

Ensuring the fairness and impartiality of the elections. This means the voter lists must be cleared of any errors by periodical revision.

Abolishing the Defense of the Domestic Front and Social Peace Law No. 33 of 1978 and abolishing some of the articles of the Political Parties Law No. 40 of 1977.

Ensuring that the Judiciary should supervise the elections to guarantee impartiality and proper procedures.

The report stressed adopting a list system with proportional representation to ensure a growing multiparty system and revive parties' role in the political process on condition that the constitutional flaws that marred the previous two laws are avoided and the independent individual's representation can be secured.

The report noted that various parties were unanimous on the need to adopt this system. The parties are the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party, the Labor Party, the Liberal Party, the Socialist Arab Party of Egypt, the Green Party, the Unionist Democratic Party, and the Justice Party.

Some of these parties called for introducing nonparty lists and some called for incomplete lists that do not require the inclusion of all the nominees in a single constituency. Others called for canceling the proportion required by law for the list to win. Others called for reducing this proportion while some called for merging the list and individual electoral systems.

The report stressed the need to address some negative practices during elections by promoting political awareness.

The report also stressed the need to support women's role in the political process and devise plans to activate that role. The list system could provide an opportunity for women to effectively perform their general political duty as men's partners in public life.

The report called for activating the political parties' role as a key to engaging in the political process in Egypt so that they can play their role under the Constitution and law. It also called for consolidating the parties' effectiveness and ability to perform national action.

The report affirmed the need to pay attention to educating youths on firm bases and devising political frameworks suitable for taking the responsibility and consciously contributing to public life by realizing the country's values and higher interests.

On the Ethics Law, the report emphasized that the National Democratic Party's proposals in this regard have met general acceptance from the Political Committee. The proposals called for canceling the provisions of political responsibility stipulated in the Ethics Law because this responsibility was established in political circumstances and for reasons that no longer exist.

The report noted that this cancellation will negate overlapping jurisdiction of the Public Prosecution and the Socialist Public Prosecutor and the resulting problems.

The report called for expanding Consultative Council jurisdiction by seeking its views more often on draft bills and on the general framework of the state budget in implementation of the Constitution's Article 195.

On combating terrorism and extremism, the report affirmed that there was a general trend toward the need for the parties to increase their efforts to confront extremism and terrorism as the primary enemy of democracy and culture, to replan slum areas, and to assert that Islam is the religion of tolerance; by hiding behind Islam, extremism and terrorism harm this tolerant religion.

Issues Report on Foreign Policy

NC0607055594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 5 Jul (MENA)—The National Dialogue Political Committee chaired by moderator Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur stressed the need for Egypt to continue bearing its responsibilities to achieve peace in the Middle East and reach a comprehensive and just solution for the Middle East problem.

In its final report on Egypt's foreign policy, the committee stressed the need to support Egyptian and Arab economic power so that it might be ready for the economic cooperation that could emerge in the Middle East when peace is established and the Middle East is free of weapons of mass destruction. [passage omitted]

The Political Committee report emphasized the importance of working to settle inter-Arab differences through a peaceful dialogue instead of fighting and armed clashes. It stressed the need to strengthen relations with Sudan and enhance the ties linking the two nations and to back the Arab League and adhere to its resolutions and recommendations. [passage omitted]

The report noted the importance of a firm stance against crimes committed against humanity and the ethnic extermination of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the need to preserve their historic rights. [passage omitted]

On Egypt's relations with the United States, the report called for continuing support for these relations on every political and economic level and for continuing economic and military aid to Egypt to contribute to implementing development plans. [passage omitted]

Writer Questions U.S. Rights Policy on Egypt

NC2906110594 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 25 Jun 94 pp 1, 8

["The Political Stance" column by chief editor Ibrahim Sa'dah: "The United States and Human Rights"]

[Text] How strange are U.S. principles, which are tailored and applied according to whims, which differ from one individual to another, one administration to another, and from one state to another! The principle of respect for human rights is one of the most important issues for the U.S. Administration under President Bill Clinton, who relied on the issue of "human rights" in his election campaign to convince the U.S. voter that former President George Bush was lax in confronting the violations of these rights in various countries, specifically in countries that have enjoyed—and continue to enjoy—the "most favored nation" status by the United States.

The United States has often adopted contradictory positions as a consequence of bizarre policies that deal differently with different countries. We see it making demands on one country but not on another. There are many and varied examples of this. For example:

No one disputes the injustice inflicted on the Palestinian people by the Israelis, specifically those who are arrested for interrogation and investigation. Human rights organizations worldwide have condemned the Israeli injustice and suppression and the oppression reported daily

by every television station and newspaper. Yet all that comes out from the U.S. Administration is a demand for "self-restraint" to protect the peace process and an expression of concern over the escalating Palestinian "terrorist" operations that force the Israeli—in the U.S. view—to confront and suppress them.

We have heard no U.S. condemnation of the human suppression to which the Palestinian people are subjected inside their country, which was usurped by the Israelis. We have not heard of the U.S. parliament—Congress—forming fact-finding committees to follow up the constant violations of Palestinian human rights inside Israel. And we have not heard one voice demanding a stop to economic and military aid to Israel or a freeze on treating it as a country that enjoys American care and patronage until it stops these chronic violations of Palestinian human rights.

The stance adopted by the "defenders" of human rights in every continent on the tragedy that is happening inside what was until very recently the state of Yugoslavia does not differ much from their stance on Israel. Year after year the world had nothing to discuss other than the massacres inflicted on the peoples and minorities of this country that has split into states and statelets. But the stance adopted by these "defenders" toward the collective liquidation has been a strange, suspicious, and negative one. And there are those who believe that the United States is encouraging these massacres as long as their victims are not from among the peoples who enjoy its care and patronage. Where are those who took to shouting all over the world day and night about "human rights," as if the killing of thousands of Bosnian Muslims in the ugliest ethnic and racist massacres did not constitute a violation of human rights?

The U.S. Administration has raised a big clamor in condemning what it described as human rights violations in China. President Bill Clinton threatened China's leaders that his country would not renew China's "most favored nation" status if the violations were not stopped immediately. Because China knows that the United States needs it more than it needs the United States economically, Beijing's rulers ridiculed this hollow threat and warned Washington against attempting to intervene in its internal affairs.

It is remarkable that the U.S. President could not implement his threat against the advice of his trade and treasury secretaries. Even more remarkable was the complete turnabout he performed. He actually pledged continuing U.S. cooperation with China, which imported around $8 billion of U.S. goods last year, creating jobs for over 150,000 Americans.

President Clinton at least had the courage to admit that U.S. interests dictate the political and international inclinations of the U.S. Administration. For a fistful of dollars the loud cry over human rights violations in China simply faded away.

The other face of the United States can be seen clearly in its transactions with Egypt, a presumably friendly country. No sooner did Egypt imagine that its relations with Washington were improving than it was hit with a bizarre campaign concerning imagined human rights "violations."

Last week, for instance, the Europe and Near East Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives held a long hearing chaired by Lee Hamilton. Robert Pelletreau, assistant secretary of state and a former U.S. ambassador to Cairo, attended the session to answer questions from representatives. For them, it seems, no worry was more paramount than the human rights that they allege are not given to the bearers of terror weapons in Egypt. It would do no harm to quote some of what took place at this bizarre and suspicious hearing.

A representative asked: "What is your evaluation of the government's stability in Egypt? We have heard of a multitude of stiff measures the government has taken against the so called Muslim Brothers and some people have expressed alarm over the instability of the Egyptian Government. Have circumstances changed for better or worse during the past year?"

Pelletreau answered by saying: "There have been clashes over the past two years between the Egyptian Government and the Islamic extremists. These clashes had a devastating effect on tourism in Egypt but there was never any real threat to the regime in Egypt. We have noticed over the past few months a marked and gradual easing of this problem due to security, economic, and social measures. The Muslim Brotherhood has been around in Egypt since the twenties. Religious extremism has always been a feature of Egyptian life, particularly in the south. Occasional clashes would be expected to take place but there are signs that the current challenge is weakening."

Another representative asked: "The reports I read indicate that these incidents perpetrated by the extremists—the terrorist acts—are decreasing. It seems that this is due to the efforts of the Egyptian Government. But lately the Egyptian Government has decided to move against the Muslim Brothers. It is my understanding that the Muslim Brothers are not necessarily all members of terrorist groups. How do you assess the situation in Egypt? Is it heading toward stability?"

The former U.S. ambassador in Cairo replied: "I believe things have become more stable although it is not clear how much the government intends to impose restrictions on the Muslim Brothers. It appears that there are new signs of contacts by some members of this group with extremists and this has led to the government tightening its grip on its activities. But it is not clear how far the government will go with them. The Brothers have extensive relations and activities, some of which are apparent and constitute no danger or threat."

The committee chairman—Lee Hamilton—interrupted here to ask: "We hear a lot about the excesses of the

police in Egypt, such as arrests, detentions, and interrogations in which torture is used as a way to obtain confessions by force, in addition to illegal actions that lead to death. Are you not worried by these accusations?"

Pelletreau replied: "Yes. These accusations worry us and we raised them with the Egyptian Government, especially the case of Madani."

Hamilton asked: "And what did the Egyptian Government have to say about this?"

He replied: "Regarding Madani, they promised to hold an immediate and comprehensive investigation. If it showed impermissible conduct then the perpetrators would be tried. The Egyptian Government also stressed to us that its policy is not to turn a blind eye to police excesses and that the government starts investigations immediately there are claims of excesses. If evidence proves that torture or other excesses took place then the culprits are tried."

Hamilton wanted to ascertain just what he had heard and repeated his question: "Do you believe the Egyptian Government is trying to implement what it promised?"

The former ambassador replied: "The Egyptian Government had already stressed to us that this was always its policy. We know there were excesses, investigations, and that those responsible were tried."

With amazing persistence, Hamilton asked: "Punished? Were they punished?"

Pelletreau replied: "I believe so. I will check and refer to the records."

Hamilton apparently could not wrest from the former U.S. ambassador in Cairo what he wanted to hear to satisfy his desire to defame Egypt. Challenging and trying to implicate Pelletreau, he asked him: "Then you are satisfied with the Egyptian Government's method of following up these cases?"

Pelletreau was forced to say: "No. We are not completely satisfied, because there are always new accusations and continuing records of excesses. This is why we continue to raise this issue with the Egyptian Government and urge it to strictly apply its declared policy so that the Egyptian security forces will implement and abide by it."

That was the most important discussion at the session held by one of the House of Representatives committees last week. Committee members heard the former U.S. ambassador in Cairo. They were led by Lee Hamilton, who tried to wrest from the former ambassador something of which he had no evidence. Pelletreau tried to be truthful about the facts with which he is acquainted and the incidents that prove the Egyptian ruling regime's respect for the law and human rights and its willingness to punish any person who violates these rights. But the intensive pressure by the committee members—led by Lee Hamilton—was stronger than his attempt, which compelled him to "placate" and "confess" what he never wanted to confess.

While the parliamentary committee defines its role as merely searching for and finding facts, which is evident from its deliberations, there is a U.S. human rights group that has gone beyond this role and given itself the right to combine the jobs of prosecutor and judge at the same time.

In a week this U.S. group released a report about its activities in "protecting" human rights and monitoring violations in every continent apart from inside the United States, which is considered—as they imagine and falsely represent it—man's paradise on earth. We read nothing that remotely alluded to the despicable racism U.S. society created and exported to various places. And we did not read about the excesses of the U.S. security bodies, starting with the Central Intelligence Agency, through the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to the various police departments, as well as inside the prisons and among the traffic police, although we do not really need to read about such things. We have already been introduced to these violations and the worst abuses in many American films and television series.

The important point is that I have read what was presented in that report on Egypt. I was under the impression at first that the report was discussing another country, not Egypt, the country we live in and to which we belong. The masters of "investigation" proved, through what they wrote about Egypt, that they have "investigated" nothing and that what they presented as "facts" cannot be proven. The only way to prove such facts is for the "investigators" to wear a "cloak of invisibility," infiltrate the "torture" chambers in police stations and get inside the Interior Ministry, and live with the terrorists in their cells to determine the bodily injuries and mutilation as a result of the "myriad forms of torture," which are more akin—as far as we have heard—to the Spanish inquisition or to what the sons of the Palestinian people are subjected to by the masters of oppression and subjugation, the Israelis.

I am not exaggerating. What was written in this report confirms unmistakably that the only source the writers of this information relied on were the statements and leaflets of the terrorist groups that have disseminated corruption, terrorism, destruction, and death in our country. The security forces confronted these terrorists and murderers of children and innocent citizens. They cut them down to size, confining their activities and handing them over to the law, the items and texts of which stipulate the severest form of punishment without any need for torture or extraction of confessions through force.

The writers of these imaginary facts might hasten to deny such an accusation and say that these terrorist statements and leaflets were not their only source of information, that there are other sources that have nothing to do

with the terrorist groups, such as some of the Egyptian opposition papers and human rights societies that have recently spread and increased in Egypt. These societies house many of the brightest and most famous symbols of the totalitarian era that rejected the word "democracy" and hated the principle of human rights. Now these same people have become the greatest champions of democracy and the staunchest supporters of human rights. I have no further comment.

Paper: U.S. Not To Cooperate with 'Extremists'

NC3006082594 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 27 Jun 94 p 15

[Report by 'Abdallah Kamal]

[Text] A U.S. Embassy political officer has stated that the United States will not change its decision on not cooperating with the extremists in Egypt, including the Muslim Brothers.

He said: The U.S. policy in this regard has not changed. The statement by the assistant U.S. secretary of state [not further identified] on the restoration of the dialogue with the extremist groups is confined to the case of Algeria, which is completely different from the case of Egypt.

AL-AHRAR Cited on Expulsion of 6 Mosad Agents

LD2906135294 Tehran IRNA in English 1322 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Text] Athens, June 29, IRNA—Egyptian authorities expelled six agents of the Zionist secret service Mosad last Thursday [29 June] from the land border, Egyptian paper AL-AHRAR reported in its weekly edition. The six were taken into custody in upper Egypt in April while they were trying to sell arms and high-tech communication equipments to "extremist groups."

The paper said the foreign minister of the Zionist regime Shim'on Peres had personally intervened with Cairo to set the Zionist spies free.

Paper: Jerusalem Status To Be Decided Through Talks

NC0307091694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 3 Jul GMT 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jul (MENA)--AL-AKHBAR newspaper asserts that the fate of Jerusalem city will only be determined through official negotiations between the parties concerned. It notes the Arabs' and Muslims' right to Jerusalem City, which has been confirmed by historical events "which no one can deny," as well as by Security Council resolutions that regard Jerusalem as an occupied city.

In today's editorial the paper denounces Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' statement in response to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's announcement that he will go to Jerusalem with President Husni Mubarak to pray together in al-Aqsa Mosque. Peres said that 'Arafat's statements were mere dreams and affirmed that Jerusalem will remain Israel's unified capital.

AL-AKHBAR refers to President Husni Mubarak's assertion at the international press conference held in Cairo before President 'Arafat's return to his homeland. At that press conference President Mubarak asserted that Jerusalem will not remain Israel's capital forever, and negotiations on Jerusalem have to be held between the Palestinians and Israelis to reach a formula satisfying to all parties.

The paper says if Peres views 'Arafat's statement on Jerusalem as a dream far from realization, time will make sure that the dream is realized, just as the return to Gaza and Jericho came true and the return to the rest of the occupied Palestinian land will come to happen.

13 'Extremist' Group Members Arrested in Ismailia

NC0507201994 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 30 Jun 94 p 9

[Text] The Higher State Security prosecution office is interrogating 13 members of extremist religious groups after the State Security intelligence organs succeeded in arresting them in the Ismailia Governorate. They found on them antiregime pamphlets inciting the masses, a huge amount of money, and banned books and pamphlets. Public attorney Counsellor 'Abd-al-Sami' Sharaf-al-Din ordered their detention for 30 days for interrogation.

Three Students Seriously Wounded in Asyut

NC0607043194 Paris AFP in English 1849 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, July 5 (AFP)—Suspected Moslem militants on Tuesday shot and seriously wounded three students in the militant stronghold region of Asyut, security sources said.

Muhammad Tafadi, Mahmud Tafadi and Majdi Tafadi were standing outside Muhammad's home in the city of al-Badari, about 400 kilometers south of Cairo, when two gunmen opened fire on them and fled.

The victims were taken to hospital for treatment to various injuries.

The three are science students at Asyut university. Police were uncertain why they had been targeted, and whether they were related.

More than 300 people have been killed since Moslem militants launched a violent campaign to topple the secular government of President Husni Mubarak in March 1992.

Libya

Official Optimistic on Efforts To Resolve Lockerbie

NC0707084694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0742 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jul (MENA)—Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity in Libya, has said his country is optimistic about efforts made by President Husni Mubarak, Egyptian diplomats, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement countries to reach a solution to the Lockerbie crisis. He also expressed optimism that the international embargo on Libya will be lifted.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM today he said the Libyan people appreciate the efforts to resolve the Lockerbie crisis; they confirm that dialogue is continuing with the various parties. He noted the Arab League's initiative calling for the trial of two Libyan suspects by Scottish judges at the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

Turning to another subject, al-Fazzani said the plan to settle Egyptian farmers on Libyan territory designated for land reclamation projects is continuing and that Egyptian companies are preparing an area of land for the project to receive the first group of Egyptian farmers.

He added that the agreed railroad between Egypt and Libya will extend from Port Said to Casablanca in Morocco to link the Arab Maghreb Union countries and Egypt.

JANA Denounces Italian Support for Sanctions

LD0607195194 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] The Italian news agency has reported that the Italian parliament at its session yesterday approved the application of the unjust measures imposed by the Western countries on the Great Jamahiriyah through the so-called Security Council.

The JANA local affairs editor describes this behavior by the Italian parliament as compatible with the fascist past of Italy and with its history that is full of painful memories for the Arab people of Libya.

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks With Yemen's Salih

LD0707074994 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] A telephone contact between the brother leader of the revolution and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, head of the Presidential Council in brotherly Yemen, took place within the framework of the continuous contacts between the brother leader of the revolution and the brothers in Yemen, aimed at stopping the bloodshed of brothers and safeguarding the Yemeni union.

Algerian Prime Minister Arrives in Banghazi

LD0607165994 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Banghazi this afternoon. They will take part in meetings of the Algerian-Libyan Higher Executive Committee which are to begin tomorrow. [passage omitted]

In a statement to JANA, the Algerian prime minister said: I and the delegation accompanying me are glad to be on the soil of the Great Jamahiriyah. He added that his visit comes as part of the effort to develop and promote ties between the one people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria.

The Algerian prime minister is accompanied by Cherif Meziane, minister of interior, local authorities, environment, and administrative reform; Justice Minister Mohamed Teguia; Cherif Rahmani, minister of equipment and urban planning; Transport Minister Mohamed Isli; Finance Minister Ahmed Benbitour; Commerce Minister Sassi Aziza; and Ahmed Attaf, minister delegate to the foreign minister in charge of cooperation and Maghreb affairs.

Iranian President's Son Arrives With Message

LD0507135094 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received the son of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran, who is a personal envoy of the Iranian president. The envoy handed the brother leader of the revolution a letter from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani containing an affirmation of the position of the people and Government of Iran supporting the Arab Libyan people and stressing the preparedness of the Iranian people to stand on the side of the Great Jamahiriyah and back it by all means in order to face up to the crusading and colonial campaign to which it is being subjected.

The Iranian envoy said that the small states should stand together to confront the forces of arrogance that try to control peoples.

The meeting was attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Housing and Amenities and the ambassador of Iran to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Morocco

Yemeni Parliamentarians Meet With Counterparts

LD0407151894 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] The Yemeni parliamentary delegation headed by 'Abd al- Wahab Mahmud, deputy speaker of the [Yemeni] parliament, held talks today with the heads of parliamentary groups [in the House of Representatives] on a number of bilateral issues and issues of common interest, particularly those connected with parliamentary life in the two countries.

The Yemeni delegation was also informed about the democratic course which characterized the House of Representatives' sessions, its structure, and the duties assigned to it.

The issue of the Yemeni crisis also formed the main point of the talks between the Moroccan and Yemeni sides.

The deputy speaker of the Yemeni parliament pointed out that the Yemeni Government welcomed the Arab countries' intervention to put an end to the existing conflict in Yemen.

Israeli Official in Jerusalem on Shrines Policy

LD0607153394 Rabat MAP in English 1244 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Al-Quds, 6 Jul (MAP)—The standpoint of King Hassan II on the al-Quds [Jerusalem] question is a reference to seek a settlement to the problem, director of the Israeli-Arab relations department at the Israeli Foreign Ministry David Dadonn said.

In an interview with MAP special envoys to al-Quds, the Israeli official underlined the need for the Arab world to grasp the position of the sovereign on the al-Quds issue.

Muslim holy shrines in Israel will always be open to the believers who want to visit them on pilgrimage or for prayers. And no matter how the al-Quds problem will be settled, Israel will always respect the holy shrines of all religions, Dadonn said.

This is a sacred principle that falls in line with the important approach of the Moroccan sovereign to the question, he said.

However, he said, time has not come yet to raise the question. To start discussing the status of al-Quds at present will only torpedo the peace process.

The problem will be discussed in two years (as of the signing of the peace accords in Cairo last May 4) within the frame of the talks on overall relations with the Palestinians and on all pending issues, he explained.

The Israeli official voiced opposition to an international management of al-Quds, saying that such a move will frustrate everybody and will satisfy nobody. 'We should seek a peace consolidating solution not a solution that would be a source of conflict. Al-Quds should unify rather than divide', he said.

Sudan

Foreign Minister on Ties, Dispute With Egypt

EA0207194094 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 2 Jul (SUNA)—The foreign minister, Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih, today addressed the hearing session organized by the Foreign Relations Committee of the National Assembly concerning the situation in Yemen and Sudanese-Egyptian relations.

Dr. Abu-Salih spoke about the development of relations with the fraternal state of Egypt and the Sudan's attitude towards solving the crisis of relations [word indistinct] pointing out that it was characterized by wisdom and flexibility. Dr. Abu-Salih stressed that Sudan was not working to exacerbate the situation but it did not accept procrastination and delay concerning the efforts of [word indistinct] of these relations since relations between the two countries could not bear (?postponement) and they affected the joint interests of the two countries.

Dr. Abu-Salih said that he had done everything he could to restore relations to their normal level. He had waited for a whole year for the visit of the Egyptian foreign minister, in accordance with the agreement reached by the Sudanese and Egyptian presidents, to hold an objective and frank dialogue to remove the rupture between the two countries. He pointed out that Sudan was still awaiting moves from Egypt towards negotiation to settle the issues in dispute between the countries. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Supports Yemeni Unity, Rehabilitation

EA0607165994 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has declared Sudan's support for the consolidation of legality and unity in Yemen. He said Yemeni unity is deemed to be the true nucleus of comprehensive Arab unity and that the majority of the Yemeni masses rally round national unity. At his regular meeting this morning, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir called on media leaders not to interfere in Yemen's internal affairs so as not to complicate the problem or exacerbate the destruction. The president of the Republic said assistance to Yemen would be carried out through rehabilitation programs, particularly in the field of electricity, water services, and infrastructures.

His excellency again appealed to Arabs to solve their problems through dialogue and understanding and not resort to violence. He pointed out the negative effects that resulted from the recent Gulf War. He said Sudan

appreciated the Yemeni brothers for their efforts to brief the Sudanese leadership on developments. [passage omitted]

Al-Mahdi Describes 'Plot' To Implicate Ummah

PM0607131294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Kamal Hamid and Nizar Daw-al-Na'im: "Al-Mahdi Tells AL-HAYAH: Two Party Leaders Were Lured To Implicate Me"]

[Excerpts] Khartoum, London—Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, former Sudanese prime minister and leader of the Ummah Party, who was released by Sudanese authorities the day before yesterday after being detained for 13 days, has stressed that he has no objection to reconciliation with the government of President 'Umar al-Bashir if an agreement is reached on restoring democracy and finding national solutions to Sudan's problems. He said that two of the party's leaders were lured into a plot to implicate him. [passage omitted]

In an exclusive statement to AL-HAYAH in his house in al-Mulazimin area in Omdurman, where a large number of his supporters gathered to congratulate him on his release, al-Mahdi said that "there is no objection to reconciliation with al-Bashir's government if an agreement is reached on restoring democracy and finding national solutions to Sudan's problems."

He did not rule out that "the government and the political forces backing it" might be considering reconciliation with him after he has been given a "considerable slot" on government television. Al-Mahdi said that he had discovered "full information and recorded confessions" which prove the existence of a plot. He said that the party's two leaders, Dr. Hammad Baqadi and 'Abd-al-Rahman Farah, "were lured to provide information to prove they were implicated. But I do not believe they actually contacted Egyptian Consul 'Umar Qinawi to brief him on the movement of Egyptian oppositionists in Sudan. This is the situation. As for the attempt by Sayf-al-Din Sa'id to lure them into other topics and record their statements, it is a plot and a scheme through which the government probably wanted to implicate the Ummah Party and me personally. This is why my statement through the media services was clear and stressed that violence and political assassinations are not part of our nature. We are seeking to conduct opposition in a peaceful and civilized manner."

He stressed that Sa'id "is not an Ummah Party member. He is a known information dealer who offers his services in return for money. And he was an influential member of (former President Ja'far) Numayri's security service."

Al-Mahdi pointed out that he has been promised by security quarters that the file will be closed, because of its sensitivity and effect on Sudan's relations with Egypt and the Ummah Party. [passage omitted]

Al-Mahdi Sees Detained Ummah Leaders After Release

PM0707095894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Jul 94 pp1, 4

[Reports by 'Uthman Mirghani in London and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau in Khartoum: "Al-Mahdi Visited Detained Ummah Party Leaders As Soon As He Was Released"]

[Text] Informed Sudanese sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that, as soon as he was released, al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, former prime minister and leader of the opposition Ummah Party, visited the Ummah Party leaders detained on the charge of planning bombing and assassination operations. He visited them before making his radio and television statement on the case.

The sources said that al-Mahdi would later answer all the questions raised about his statement and release in a bid to explain matters to the public and put an end to the confusion of the past two days.

They emphasized that al-Mahdi believes that a scheme and plot were carried out to implicate Hammad Baqadi and 'Abd-al-Rahman Farah through Sayf-al-Din Sa'id, the third person in the case, even though he admitted that they made recorded confessions in their own voices after their arrest. According to the same sources, al-Mahdi believes that the ultimate target was the Ummah Party itself and the entire al-Ansar sect.

Members of the families of Baqadi and Farah have confirmed that the two insist on their story that they were tortured into making confessions.

The sources said that al-Sadiq al-Mahdi talked to his visitors over the past three days about his detention and said that he was held in a ghost house in Khartoum which, he said, was "a graveyard for the living" and not just a detention camp.

Meanwhile, Mubarak al-Mahdi, the Ummah Party's official in charge of foreign affairs, denied that al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's statement denoted a change in the party's position. He said: Our consistent and continuing position is that of peaceful opposition until the restoration of democracy, freedom, and peace in Sudan.

Mubarak al-Mahdi added that, in his statement, al-Sadiq al-Mahdi reaffirmed his continued opposition to the current regime on the basis of civil jihad. He emphasized that the call for a peaceful national democratic solution was a continuation of al-Mahdi's old position favoring a solution that would restore democracy and establish peace by nonviolent means.

Mubarak al-Mahdi called for the immediate release of Baqadi and Farah. He said: The plot which was hatched with the collusion of security agent Sayf Sa'id mainly targeted al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the Ummah Party but the plot has now failed and the regime has backed down

by releasing al-Sadiq. Now the detained party leaders, who are victims of that plot, must be released.

Mubarak al-Mahdi added: "We have repeatedly drawn attention to the state of health of Baqadi and Farah and their old age, and how they have suffered in detention."

'Key Commander' Quits Rebel Movement Before Talks

AB0407195694 Paris AFP in English 1142 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Nairobi, July 4 (AFP)—A key commander of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) United has quit the movement, after accusing the faction's leader Riak Machar of dictatorship and poor leadership.

Commander Arok Thuon Arok, SPLA-United Secretary for internal affairs and public security, told a press conference here on Monday [4 July] that he was forced to quit the movement because dictatorial tendencies had crept back into the faction, which split from John Garang's mainstream SPLA over similar accusations.

Accusing Riak Machar of running the movement single-handedly with junior officers, and ingnoring the Interim National Executive Committee (INEC) and the National Liberation Council, Arok described the SPLA-United movement as "a ship sailing without a rudder" and squarely blamed the faction's leader for the new development.

He was particularly bitter about the recent sacking of SPLA-United's foreign affairs secretary Lam Akol and alleged recent arrests by Riak Machar of nine of his commanders, including secretary for information John Luk Jok, and appealed to the international community and Amnesty International to pressure Riak Machar for their immediate release.

Lam Akol, a Shiluk, has since his sacking earlier this year returned to southern Sudan and taken control of military operations in the Nasir area of Upper Nile region.

The resignation of Arok, the highest-ranking Dinka in SPLA-United and de facto number four after Riak Machar, Kerubino Kwanyin Bol and William Nyuon Bany, will further complicate the ethnic animosities currently besetting southern Sudan, two weeks ahead of peace talks between the rebels and Khartoum, scheduled to start in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, on July 18.

The talks will be the latest in a series of so far fruitless efforts to broker a peace settlement to the Sudanese civil war by the seven-nation Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), grouping Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.

The SPLA took up arms in 1983 in a bid to end domination of the mainly Christian and animist southern Sudan by the Arabised Moslem north. But since the major split in the movement in 1991, which saw Riak Machar and a number of key commander abandon Garang's SPLA, and further tribal rifts in the region, Khartoum has managed to recapture a string of rebel-held towns in successive major military offensives.

Kuwait

Ekeus Arrives, Views Talks with Iraqi Officials

LD0607201494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 6 Jul (KUNA)—Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the special UN commission charged with the destruction of the Iraqi regime's weapons of mass destruction, arrived in Kuwait today from Baghdad on a special plane belonging to the United Nations. The aim of Ekeus' visit is to hold discussions with senior Kuwaiti officials about his international task of monitoring the implementation of UN resolutions on the disarmament of Iraq in accordance with the cease- fire conditions of Kuwait's war of liberation from Iraqi aggression in 1991.

Ekeus is expected to meet Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, and Shaykh Sabah al- Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. [passage omitted]

In a statement to KUNA Ekeus said: "The UN Security Council member states will only reduce the economic sanctions imposed on the Iraqi regime if that regime recognizes the independence of Kuwait and its sovereignty within its borders." [passage omitted] He went on to say: "The Iraqis' policy toward the borders is that they feel this issue will be settled in one way or another, but they did not explain to us how this settlement would be achieved."

Ekeus did not give any other details on this subject except to indicate that the Iraqis had said that the border issue "was not a problem" and added that he did not know what they meant by this.

The aim of Ekeus' Kuwait visit is to inform Kuwaiti officials of the latest developments in his mission and to hear their views. [passage omitted]

On his talks with Iraqi officials, Ekeus said: "On the political level, the Iraqis were more responsive than usual. My talks with Tariq 'Aziz were held in a good atmosphere. He expressed his desire and readiness to install a system to monitor Iraqi military capabilities as soon as possible."

The chairman of the UN Special Commission said the monitoring system will be completed by September. "They are anxious to speed up the installation of the monitoring program because they know that the more they delay, the longer the sanctions will remain," he said.

Ekeus said that the Iraqis were "more cooperative on the monitoring system and have accepted and conceded that they will be subject to heavy monitoring from now on."

He stated that his talks with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz focused on weapons of mass destruction but also dealt with political issues.

Ekeus said that the oil embargo and economic sanctions had had an effect inside Iraq. He added that much had to be done to set up the monitoring system and to guarantee that Iraq would not return to the possession of weapons. [passage omitted]

The UN official said that there are states which are demanding a reduction of the sanctions. However, he said, "No one has asked for an immediate reduction because they know that there is much to be done." He pointed out: "Some would like to begin relatively soon to reduce the sanctions, while others would like to wait in order to monitor what will happen." He did not specify which states want to reduce the sanctions against Iraq or which states are taking a wait and see position. He added: "I do not see any radical change in positions."

Ekeus said that the main problem the commission is facing is the fact that the Iraqis have not provided it with the documents and data regarding the sites of old weapons or regarding the production system under which mass destruction weapons were developed. He added: They gave us some facts, but we would like documents or means of verification which they deny possessing.

The UN official said that members of the commission used air survey and monitoring equipment. They also held investigations with people connected to the mass destruction weapons program over a three-year period since the commission started its mission in 1991.

He went on to say: Despite all those problems, we have started to get a relatively clearer picture; we can say that there is no serious threat from Iraq regarding weapons of mass destruction.

He said that his next visit to Iraq would be next September. [passage omitted]

Ekeus on Iraqi Cooperation

LD0607215194 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1919 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Interview with Rolf Ekeus, UN special commission envoy, by unidentified correspondent in Kuwait on 6 July—recorded, in English]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] In your expert opinion did the Iraqi regime reveal, or were you able to pinpoint, the source of the technology used in producing the mass destruction weapons?

[Ekeus] Yes, I can say yes, in a sense, on both questions. Iraq has last year after long hesitation provided the special commission and IAEA [International Atomic Energy Authority] with data and information on the suppliers. However, these data were not complete so we have had, from the UN side, to continue to search for further information on foreign suppliers. [passage omitted]

So we feel that we now have good picture through this combination of Iraqi declaration and our own search and investigation activities.

[Correspondent] From another point, is the present response by the Iraqi regime to the requirements and demands of the world community enough to lift the UN blockade and taking into consideration that Baghdad has not so far recognized Kuwait's legitimate borders and has not released any of our PoW's?

[Ekeus] If you first address the question of the weapons in this context we have not from the UN side concluded our work. We have to do two things, you know: identify and clean up Iraq's (?earlier) weapons, chemical, biological weapons, nuclear weapons, and so on, and long-range missiles. This is a task which we feel that we have now almost completed.

But we also have to put in place a control system and that is still not concluded, so, if and concerning the other aspects of the cease-fire arrangements and the obligations of Iraq under the cease- fire arrangements, there the question of Kuwait's integrity and the boundary, borders of Kuwait are very important obviously and the Security Council members and the Security Council as a whole appears very firm in its position that this issue has be be satisfactorily solved completely, in a complete way.

Also the pronouncement we hear from the members of the Security Council is that all other relevant resolutions should be implemented. I have to add there that of course the members of the council may have so to say different interpretation of these obligations. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] In your latest talks in Baghdad, have they touched on the prospects of imposing new UN sanctions to ensure the nonreturn by Iraq to its previous cynical behavior?

[Ekeus] Well, first of all, the continuing sanctions, the continuing embargo on oil, say, these are on and with every day, that is, I would say a new day and a new pressure, so to say. [passage omitted]

So, it is a process, which as I understand it correctly will be very carefully calibrated with Iraq's behavior. If Iraq is, so to say, complying—well, I think there will be relief. If Iraq is not complying it will, the pressure will stay on.

[Correspondent] Well, one our your ways of ensuring that Iraq will comply is installing the cameras. In your opinion are installed cameras enough to monitor the nonproduction of medium- and of long-range missiles by the Iraqi regime in the future?

[Ekeus] No, they are not enough at all. They are crucial and very important tools. [passage omitted]

The cameras are crucial but they are not enough. The most important factor is still the human person, the human inspector. We will, we are now positioning in Iraq on a permanent basis, missile experts who have a very thorough knowledge—over the years they have acquired that—but they have very thorough knowledge of the production of these facilities and factories where there is a capability to produce such weapons. [passage omitted]

Paper Views 'Arafat's Non-Mention of Kuwaiti Support

LD0407103094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Kuwait, 4 Jul—A Kuwaiti newspaper today expressed its indignation about the absence of any mention of the role played by Kuwait in supporting the Palestinian cause in PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's speech in Gaza last Saturday [2 July].

In its editorial entitled " 'Arafat's Denial: New But Not Surprising," Al-RA'Y AL-'AMM refers to 'Arafat's denial of Kuwait's persistent support for the Palestinian cause out of its pan-Arab conviction and in fulfilment of its pan-Arab commitments.

The newspaper stresses that 'Arafat's disregard is meaningless, and mentions three reasons for that, the first of which being " 'Arafat's customary disavowment."

The paper goes on to say that the second reason is: The Kuwaiti people figured out 'Arafat the moment the mask fell from his face and his abhorrent and repulsive features emerged, unashamedly mocking."

On the third reason, the newspaper says: This stance by someone who has returned under Israeli protection will not affect Kuwait's conviction of its principles, and will not prevent it from playing its pan-Arab role, because Kuwait cannot and will not shed its skin. It has been like this and it will remain the same whatever the circumstances."

Yemen

Northern Troops Reportedly Capture al-Mukalla, Aden

Southern Planes Continue Raids

LD0607192494 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Journalists who visited the southern Yemeni town of al-Mukalla today, Wednesday, confirmed that the northern troops have seized the town. Salih 'Abd-al-Hafiz, who was appointed by Sanaa as governor of Hadhramaut, told reporters in Sanaa today that three northern soldiers died in the battle with the southerners in al-Mukalla.

Meantime, a diplomatic source in Sanaa said that southern warplanes had taken off from al-Riyan airport in al-Mukalla before the northern troops could capture

the airport. The source added that these planes continue their raids against northern troops from a new base in the south.

The source added that northern troops were not able to seize any of the warplanes which had been stationed in the airport.

In another development, AFP said that southern Yemeni troops were able to repulse a northern assault against the quarters of Khormaksar, al-Mansurah, and Shaykh 'Uthman in Aden.

Fierce fighting is still raging in the eastern and western parts of the city.

Northern Control of 'Strategic' Areas Described

NC0607185394 London MBC Television in Arabic 1808 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Dear listeners, we have just received the following report from our Sanaa correspondent Hammud Munassar about the fighting in al-Mukalla and Aden:

[Begin Munassar video recording] Yemeni eyes turned toward Aden and Hadhramaut's important and strategic areas amid assertions by Sanaa that its forces are in full control of al-Mukalla and al-Riyan Airport which the government forces entered yesterday, seizing several combat aircraft belonging to the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] forces. Government forces also succeeded in seizing the al-Shihr oil terminal 120 km east of al-Mukalla. Other government units continued their advance on Saywun in central Hadhramaut.

Concerning the situation in Aden, an official Sanaa source said that the government forces are in full control of the city. He said that army units halted their military actions after they reached a point close to Aden Hotel and deployed some forces at the major street junctions in Khormaksar, Mansurah, and Shaykh 'Uthman. They asked civilians not to worry and promised to take measures designed to restore normal life in the city in a matter of hours. They also distributed relief materials, food, and water to civilians in some residential quarters.

A government military source said that more than three security brigades have been instructed to clean out the city's quarters and advance on Ma'allah, al-Tawahi, and Kraytar to silence any remaining resistance by YSP forces. The source added that the Defense Ministry building, where the former defense minister and several of his aides are hiding, was surrounded by the government forces today. [end recording] [Video includes a two-minute Sanaa Television Channel 1 film showing clips of what is identifiable as al-Riyan Airport terminal building and a brief shot of a captured aircraft with no identifiable markings. Other film clips show what purports to be Aden Airport and residential areas in Aden suburbs]

South's al-Jifri Denies Fall of Aden

LD0607202594 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1934 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Aden, 6 Jul (KUNA)—'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council in the self-declared Democratic Republic of Yemen, said today that the infiltration of some soldiers from the northern forces into the Shaykh 'Uthman area does not mean that the capital Aden has fallen or has been penetrated.

In a statement to KUNA, al-Jifri said that entering Aden would mean a civil war. He added that the aggressive northern infiltration was the result of regional, Arab, and international silence.

He confirmed that Aden has, since this morning, been the target of an extensive aggressive northern assault the like of which has not been seen since hostilities broke out in May.

Crater Rebels Urged to Surrender

JN0707052594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] An official spokesman has made the following statement: The rebels in the Crater neighborhood of the valiant city of Aden have begun to place heavy weapons at the entrances to the neighborhood, causing innocent residents to panic.

Given this shameless criminal conduct, the leadership would like to reiterate that it is being extremely careful to protect the safety and security of citizens in Crater, and that it will not allow the rebels to prompt the Armed Forces to shell citizens or cause any damage to private or public property.

The rebels must halt their use of citizens as human shields. Likewise, they must halt fighting, cease fire, surrender their weapons, and take advantage of the general amnesty.

It is to be recalled that Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has issued a Presidential Decree, enacted into Law No. 1 of 1994, declaring a general amnesty.

Sanaa Ministers Visit al-Mukalla

JN0707074894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister brother 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba Jammal, accompanied by Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Malik al-Sayyani, Deputy Health Minister Dr. 'Awad Ba Matraf, Deputy Transport Minister Engineer Jamal Muhammad 'Abduh, Engineer 'Adil Khurshid, under secretary of the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources, and Judge Hamud al-Hitar have visited Hadhramaut Governorate.

They were welcomed at al-Riyan Airport by Hadhramaut Governor brother Salih 'Ubad al-Khawlani, Hasan

Ba 'Awm, Staff Colonel Muhammad Ahmad Isma'il, and several governorate officials.

When the officials visited the installations and various facilities of the al-Riyan Airport, they saw the immense damage the rebels inflicted on the airport's facilities and property. They also observed much of the airport's property and weaponry, which the gang of treachery and demolition failed to damage, including a new MiG-29 aircraft, a Sukhoi aircraft, and a MiG-21 aircraft. The rebels managed to destroy or damage the remaining planes.

Prior to their flight, the rebels failed to damage large quantities of ammunitions and hardware that had been kept at the airport.

At the end of his visit, the brother deputy prime minister and his delegation headed for the city of al-Mukalla, where he chaired an expanded meeting attended by all officials of Hadhramaut Governorate, as well as several nationalist and social figures in the governorate. The meeting was permeated by a climate of hope, trust, and pride in the accomplishments made to return life to normal to the capital city of the governorate and all its districts. The security situation is back to normal in the city of al-Mukalla and its districts.

During this meeting, the means of expediting the reconstruction endeavor were discussed. The aim is to rebuild all that the secessionist rebels, the enemies of the people, the homeland, and unity, have destroyed.

The deputy prime minister addressed the attendees. He began by relaying to them the greetings of Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, as well as his congratulations to them on the great victories achieved by the Armed Forces personnel, thanks to the sincere cooperation extended by the residents of the governorate, who are loyal to their homeland and who have sincere patriotic sentiments. He commended their adherence to unity, and their rejection of all the calls that are hostile to the people and unity.

Ba Jammal spoke about the committee whose formation was ordered by the leader president. The leader president ordered Ba Jammal, Staff Brig. Gen. 'Abd-al-Malik al-Sayyani, Deputy Health Minister 'Awad Ba Matraf, Deputy Transport Minister Jamal Muhammad 'Abduh, 'Adil Khurshid, under secretary of the ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources, and other service ministries officials to head for the governorate to expedite the reactivation of all service facilities as soon as possible.

The meeting was attended by brother Judge Hamud al-Hitar, chairman of the Human Rights Association in our country.

The attendees listened to remarks about the urgent requirements that need to be met in the city of al-Mukalla and other cities in the governorate. They also listened to a welcoming speech by Hadhramaut Governor brother Salih 'Ubad al-Khawlani. In his speech, the governor detailed the urgent requirements of the governorate.

He also commended the massive cooperation offered by citizens to address the destruction the rebels inflicted on the infrastructure in the governorate.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba Jammal, accompanied by his delegation, the governor, Hasan Ba 'Awm, and Staff Col. Muhammad Ahmad Isma'il visited several strategic and vital facilities in the capital city of the governorate. They also visited the Port of al-Mukalla. They also visited the electricity corporation, which was enormously damaged by the rebels in order to deny citizens access to electrical power, just as they did in other governorates.

The deputy prime minister and his delegation also visited the oil exporting port in the governorate. They met with the port workers and management officials of Canadian Occidental Petroleum Limited. They were reassured about the possible restart of operations at the port.

The deputy prime minister ordered that several measures be taken to facilitate communications, ensure the availability of supplies, reassure the governorate's employees, and take the necessary measures to pay them.

Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Qadir B Jammal made a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', on the overall visit, denying that any combat or military operations have taken place inside the city of al-Mukalla. He added that the city of al-Mukalla has not witnessed any military operations, as the plotters fled in disgrace and humiliation. When they did so, they left the state facilities to be plundered by gangs that tampered with the governorate's property. The plotters burned land documents, vandalized the Faculty of Education, and burned the students' examination papers.

Brother Ba Jammal indicated that most party elements who were involved in the fighting fled the city, whereas the elements that supported legitimacy and opposed the secessionists remained there. He added that the port was vacant during the visit, except for some containers. He went on to say that the establishments were completely demolished. He said that the defeated gang of renegades plundered supply and service establishments prior to their flight.

The deputy prime minister also noted that he found large numbers of people held in jails, totaling 10,000, hailing from various governorates in the Republic, including oil company workers who did not support the gang of renegades and secession. Among those tortured and jailed were elements of the General People's Congress, the Yemeni Reform Grouping, and other political parties.

The deputy prime minister said instructions for the release of all prisoners have been issued. Among those ordered to be released were the Iraqi teachers who taught drama and fine arts at Hadhramaut schools. It is to be recalled that the secessionist renegades claimed they were Iraqi pilots.

Brother Ba Jammal said the documents in our possession clearly indicated that the rebels recruited mercenary pilots, engineers, and technicians, and that the arms supplies shipped to them by the forces that are hostile to the Yemeni people included both light and heavy weapons, as well as various kinds of ammunition. The sources of these supplies are well known. He also noted the regular arms supplies were shipped to the rebels by air and at sea, including transit landings at some airports done for camouflage purposes.

Ba Jammal said that those who profess a false love for the proletariat and the poor showed no shame when planes arrived from a Gulf state providing them with European bottled mineral water, various kinds of fruits, sweets, and fast food on a daily basis. We have found the remainder of the last shipment to arrive at al-Riyan Airport.

Ba Jammal said that during the visit, he ordered that security and stability be maintained, that the citizens be reassured, and that people not be suffer from prejudice because of their political affiliations. He added that pluralism and democracy have to be safeguarded by the forces vindicating constitutional legitimacy, unity, and democracy. He went on to say: Leader President Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has issued directives that there will be no violation of law or order, and that there will be no harassment of any people except those who have continued to resist the legitimacy forces. He said that telephones in the city are now operational, and that all employees have been asked to report to duty.

Ba Jammal said that the necessary arrangements have been made to pay the salaries of the employees, which are still to be paid. He added that urgent measures will be taken to make available the citizens' requirements of various basic food supplies.

The deputy prime minister said that a meeting has been held with officials of the Canadian Occidental Petroleum Limited, and those working at production units. He added: Work is proceeding normally there. Instructions were issued to provide the necessary protection to all firms to create good and stable work conditions for companies and their employees.

Brother 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba Jammal said that Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has instructed that all problems in the Hadhramaut Governorate be addressed urgently, and that normalcy be restored there quickly.

Concluding his statement, Ba Jammal indicated that the brother Hadhramaut governor met with large crowds of citizens, who welcomed him. He added that life was back to normal there.

In a related development, a convoy of donations, including food and fruits donated by several Yemeni governorates to support the popular endeavor and the cohesion demonstrated by the Yemenis, arrived in al-Mukalla yesterday.

South Troops Line Roads to Old Town

NC0707101794 Paris AFP in English 0944 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, July 7 (AFP)—Northern troops poured into the heart of Aden on Thursday [6 July] fighting fierce street battles with southern forces trying to defend the city, an AFP correspondent said.

Volleys of automatic weapons fire sounded in the al-Tawahi and Ma'allah districts alongside Aden's port.

Southern troops armed with Kalashnikovs and rocket launchers had taken a stand on the main roads leading to Crater in the old town where hundreds and thousands of refugees and residents are sheltering.

North Seizes TV Station, Broadcasts Fall of Aden

NC0707113494 Paris AFP in English 1129 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, July 7 (AFP)—The city of Aden has fallen to northern troops, northern officials broadcast after seizing the southern port's television station.

The fall was reported after the north mounted an offensive from the Khormaksar neighborhood, which commands access via a narrow strip of land to the refugee-swollen old town jutting into the sea, witnesses said.

Rival forces fought heavy street battles in the old town, terrifying hundreds of thousands of trapped civilians, witnesses said.

Northern Forces Control Outskirts of Aden

LD0707123794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1145 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Aden, 7 Jul 1994, KUNA—The Northern Yemeni forces invaded the outskirts of the city of Aden advancing towards the districts of al Mu'allah and al Tawahi where Aden harbor is situated.

KUNA correspondent, who was talking from the residential district of Khormaksar where Aden airport is situated, said that the Northern Yemeni soldiers consolidated their control over the district separating Aden from the other outskirts such as Shayk Uthman, al Mansurah and al Qahirah.

The correspondent added that he had seen large numbers of heavily-armed northern soldiers deploying in the streets of the suburb of Khormaksar.

He said that the northern forces had combed the barracks and camps in search of southern weapons and soldiers.

He described the situation in the suburb as calm.

With the fall of the suburb of Khormaksar nothing remains before the northern forces except the districts of Ma'alla, al-Tawahi and Crater before they complete their control over the southern capital after a war which has lasted more than two months.

Direct Telephone Links Reestablished

NC0707132294 Paris AFP in English 1312 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] The Yemeni authorities restored direct telephone links with the outside world Thursday [6 July] after it was announced that Aden had fallen to northern forces, officials said in Sanaa.

Direct calls could be made to Sanaa and Aden, whereas previously calls had to be made via an operator.

Direct telephone links were also restored between Yemen's provinces.

Officials in Sanaa said President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih went to the telecommunications centre in Sanaa Thursday and ordered that direct links be restored. They were cut after war broke out on May 5.

Aden Command Seeks UN Help for Safe Passage

JN0707063494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Report by Hisham Milhim from Washington]

[Text] The latest political and war developments in Yemen indicate the battle for Aden is almost over. Informed sources told Radio Monte Carlo [RMC] that the command of the besieged forces in the old Aden area has asked the United Nations to arrange, with Sanaa, safe passage from Aden for this leadership, under the UN flag.

Yesterday afternoon, UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi conveyed this request in the name of Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to the representative of the Yemeni Government in New York, planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, who convoyed the request to Sanaa.

UN sources, who are informed about the content of these contacts, say Washington supports and sympathizes with this request because it will end the bloodshed and lead to an end to the war. Brahimi proposed that if Sanaa approves the request, the representative of the UN Development Program in Yemen, Dr. 'Awni al-'Ani, will leave for Aden to supervise the safe departure of civilians and military personnel from Aden, most probably by sea. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali is expected to discuss this issue by telephone with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

For its part, Sanaa did not object to the idea but asked questions concerning the number of those who requested safe passage from Aden. It began contacts with al-'Ani and the International Committee of the Red Cross, which will cooperate with the United Nations and the commanders of the besieged forces, such as 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, to prepare a list of the personnel who would like to leave the city. UN sources said this measure is confined to Aden and not to other cities.

On another level, official U.S. sources said the war in Yemen has practically been won by the government forces and added that the bargaining chip of recognizing an independent Yemeni entity in the south, which was brandished by certain states in the region, has fallen in light of recent military developments. However, these sources did not rule out the possibility that some Arabian Gulf states might support a secessionist movement in the Hadhramaut region. Nevertheless, these sources wondered if this would help the cause of stability in the Gulf region in the long run.

Southern Leaders Reportedly Flee Country Overnight

NC0707072094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] In an urgent report from Aden, REUTER cites southern political sources saying that southern leaders fled by sea to an unknown destination last night. The agency added that among those who fled is 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, who assumed the post of vice president in the government declared by the south, the deputy prime minister, and the ministers of defense and interior.

Earlier REUTER reported U.S.-sponsored negotiations between the rival parties in Yemen to surrender parts of Aden city remaining under southern control to avoid further bloodshed but the United States denied the report.

Al-Bid Flees al-Mukalla; Others Flee to Oman

NC0707092594 Paris AFP in English 0823 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Dubai, July 7 (AFP)—The leader of breakaway South Yemen 'Ali Salim al-Bid fled al-Mukalla after its capture by northern forces and one of his aides was killed in the fighting, Arab diplomats in the Gulf said.

At least four other aides also fled the city on the Indian Ocean and have arrived in the Gulf state of Oman, the diplomats said.

But the diplomats said they did not know where al-Bid had gone. Al-Bid, rival to Yemen's northern President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his former vice president, moved headquarters from Aden to al-Mukalla shortly after war broke out on May 5.

Salih 'Abu-Bakr' Bin-Husaynun, named oil minister in the breakaway state declared May 21, was "killed

Monday on the frotlines near al-Mukalla while in charge of the defense of Fuwwah," 15 kilometers (nine miles) east of al-Mukalla, a diplomat said.

He was buried in his birthplace of al-Shihr, about 60 kilometers (36 miles) east of al-Mukalla.

"Four or five south Yemeni ministers have taken refuge in Oman where they arrived overnight on Wednesday," a diplomat added, saying they had come from al-Mukalla.

[In a later Aden-datelined report, Paris AFP in English at 0904 GMT on 7 July adds the following: "Northern Yemeni forces pushed deeper into Aden on Thursday, trapping hundreds of thousands of refugees in the heart of the port city, witnesses said.

["They were in total control of the Khormaksar neighborhood, which commands access to the old town bordered on three sides by ocean, they added."]

South's al-Asnaj on Cease-Fire Prospects

PM0607155694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Jul 94 p3

[Interview with 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, south Yemen's "foreign minister," by Lutfi Shatarah in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shatarah] What is the mechanism you arrived at in the current New York talks with Sanaa's envoy Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani?

[Al-Asnaj] Discussion of such a mechanism is still continuing. Participation of observers from Arab and other states has been approved, under the command of Major General Sa'id Bayraqdar, the Arab League's assistant secretary general for military affairs, head of the cease-fire supervision and observation team. He is scheduled to arrive in Yemen today at the head of an Arab League delegation which will visit Sanaa and Aden.

Efforts are under way to speed up the participation of other elements. Algeria has agreed to participate in the observation forces along with the Russian Federation, but Indonesia, Egypt, and Syria still have not answered the UN secretary general's request for participation in the observation team.

Some fraternal and friendly states in the region have expressed willingness to contribute to the special fund for the supervision of the cease-fire as stipulated in Security Council Resolutions 924 and 931.

[Shatarah] Has a date been set for the start of the work of the observation team on the ground?

[Al-Asnaj] That will be decided by the team leader in cooperation and understanding with the military commands in Sanaa and Aden. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] What is the basis of the political negotiations scheduled to be held in Geneva?

[Al-Asnaj] Negotiations will be held in Geneva but the names of the representatives from both sides have not been announced. The start of the negotiations depends on full and firm adherence to Security Council Resolutions 924 and 931 on the cease-fire, and the negotiations will proceed on the basis of the existing reality in both parts of Yemen.

[Shatarah] How true are the claims that Sanaa received U.S. assurances that the cease-fire and withdrawal of heavy weapons would not lead to recognition of South Yemen?

[Al-Asnaj] We do not know that any foreign parties have the right of trusteeship over the political will of the states of the region and other states which respect the people's right of self-determination. It should be noted that the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] is not a new state but rather a state regaining its independent identity. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] Why, in your view, has the south not been officially recognized so far?

[Al-Asnaj] As we said before, the question of recognition is only governed by certain justifications and interests pertaining to the states of the region and friendly states in the world. Salih's regime has confirmed that it allowed itself to adopt regional and Arab policies and positions which threaten the security and stability of the region and which make Yemen a staging post for exporting trouble and terrorism in our region. It has now been confirmed that the tribal and military regime has opened Yemen's gates to Iraqi-Iranian-Sudanese intervention, and Jordan has played a part in providing experts and engineers to help the northern military effort to keep the fires aflame in the residential areas in the various southern governorates, causing unprecedented tragedies in Aden, Lahij, al-Dali', and Abyan. That is why I am certain that Sanaa is not in a position entitling it to receive assurances from any state that would prevent regional recognition of the DRY. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] So, when do you expect recognition?

[Al-Asnaj] We are in no hurry, particularly as there is full understanding of our position and sovereignty right, as confirmed in the contacts made by South Yemeni envoys to Arab and foreign states.

[Shatarah] It is now clear that, after this destruction, the people in the south would not accept the political situation which prevailed before the war. Does the southern command have any political concept to suggest if the secession is rejected under international pressure, especially from France and the United States?

[Al-Asnaj] There is no room for talk of a link to a military tribal regime of corruption and subservience to Iraq and the states opposed to the security and stability of the peoples of the region, after Salih has caused the destruction of residential areas and public installations. Any talk of dialogue in the context of unionist or unitary

arrangements is unacceptable unless Salih steps down and surrenders himself as a war criminal who, in cooperation with the clique of adventurers around him, caused the destruction of the nation's unity and Yemen's economy in defiance of international charters.

[Shatarah] The northern foreign minister has accused Aden of recruiting mercenaries to pilot MiG-29 aircraft to bomb Ma'rib's oil installations.

[Al-Asnaj] Regrettably, the northern foreign minister does not have any degree of influence on Sanaa's political decisionmaking which is monopolized by Salih, Shaykh al-Ahmar, and al-Zindani. While the legitimate authorities in Aden are holding a number of Iraqi and Sudanese prisoners, not a single [foreign] military expert works in the southern armed forces. It seems that the MiG-29s the northern foreign minister is talking about are a figment of the Sanaa regime's imagination. That regime survives on the arsenal of Iraqi arms and the Yemeni oil revenues. The southern weapons came from the same sources that supply the northern forces. We have also been watching the move to contract the purchase of Chinese military boats which the northern warmongers are insisting be delivered urgently. That is why we have asked the friendly Chinese Government to hold these boats which belong to the Yemeni people and not to deliver them to the Sanaa regime.

Unnamed Aden Official, Sanaa's al-Iryani on Fighting

PM0607150094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Raghidah Dirgham, Iqbal 'Abdallah, and Hamad al-Jasir: "Two Thrusts Toward Aden and al-Mukalla To Prevent Recognition of 'Democratic Yemen'"]

[Excerpts] New York, Aden, Kuwait—The situation in Yemen deteriorated further yesterday after northern forces' advance toward Aden and al-Mukalla, while neutral sources and eyewitnesses denied Aden's capture. Contacted by AL-HAYAH from London, citizens in the city said that all that has happened is that northern forces infiltrated into the Dar Sa'd area overlooking Aden, as about six tanks arrived in Dar Sa'd and opened fire on the Aden Hotel, the airport, and a hospital, causing extreme alarm in the city.

On the al-Mukalla front, a southern official has admitted that a thrust has taken place toward the city, where 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Socialist Party and chairman of the Presidential Council of the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY], is currently based. But the official conclusively denied al-Mukalla's capture, stressing that the fighting was still continuing in an area far from it and from al-Riyan airport.

The official attributed Sanaa's announcement of al-Mukalla's and Aden's capture to the northern leadership's desire to intercept any decisive political step like the recognition of the DRY by the Damascus declaration states, whose foreign ministers are meeting in Kuwait. The official said that Sanaa wants to confirm that the new state plan has collapsed and that recent military developments have led to the emergence of a new situation that makes recognition of the new state look as though it has been overtaken by time. The official stressed that the best reply to the northern forces' recent attacks is to recognize the DRY. The official, whom AL-HAYAH contacted from London, said that forces belonging to the Yemeni Reform Grouping led by Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar participated in the thrust that has taken place on the Hadhramaut-coast front, that is al-Mukalla. The official revealed that Reform Grouping forces attacked southern forces from the rear to facilitate the thrust.

Sanaa announced the capture of Aden and al-Mukalla in what appeared to be an attempt to create a new fait accompli that makes the cease-fire mechanism being discussed in the UN framework unattainable. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, planning and development minister in the Republic of Yemen, has told AL-HAYAH that "it will become clear within the next 24 hours whether there is any justification for a mechanism" to consolidate the cease-fire. He added: "We believe that if the battlefronts fall—and the main target, that is Aden, has in practice fallen—the question is: What can a military mechanism offer."

Al-Iryani said that "it will become clear within the next 24 hours whether there is any point in discussing a mechanism, depending on the military situation."

He added that "the fighting is still continuing at Aden airport, and our forces have occupied the passengers hall and the area where planes taxi. It is a matter of a short time." He said that "secessionist southern forces are cornered in Crater, and Sanaa has contacted them and asked them to surrender but they have said they will continue to fight."

AL-HAYAH has learned from northern sources that "contacts at the highest military level are being made between Sanaa and the other side involving the defense minister, and that the aim is to reach an agreement through negotiation among military officials to bring an end to the conflict." The sources described these contacts are aimed at securing a way out of the state of war, "ending the secession, and initiating a dialogue within the framework of the Pledge and Accord Document." It has become clear that Sanaa's strategy is to withdraw the Yemeni file completely from the United Nations through two main points: First, the logic of war imposes itself in a new matter that makes the cease-fire mechanism futile, and second, to resume the political dialogue among Yemeni parties without international participation.

Dr. al-Iryani stressed that the fate of the mechanism will become clear in the light of the military situation. "As

for the dialogue, dialogue among the Yemenis does not need the United Nations." [passage omitted]

Sanaa Teams Work To Restore Aden Water Supply

JN0707080194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] A responsible source at the Public Establishment For Water and Sewerage has told the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', that the establishment's technical team entrusted with restoring the water supply to Aden yesterday repaired the water pipeline in the al-Mahalla area, Lahij Governorate, and linked it to another pipeline and made the necessary repairs to reinforce the pipeline.

The source added that at the same time, electricians went into action to link the electricity cable and operate the electricity generator in Tubnah Station in Lahij Governorate, in order to operate the wells and repair the damage at the well pumps.

The source added that a sample of water was taken from the tank in the Tubnah area to conduct bacteriological test on it to ensure the water is potable. He concluded his statement by saying that technicians checked the water network in Bi'r Nasir station, assessed the damage, and repaired it quickly.

Basindwah Sends Letter to Damascus Declaration Meeting

JN0607085194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] The Yemeni News Agency, SABA', has learned that Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah has sent a letter to his brothers the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration member states, currently meeting in Kuwait. In his letter, Basindwah said he hopes the meeting will help Yemen end the tragic crisis it is facing. He also wished the brothers will understand that it is better to stand by Yemen's stability and security, stressing that this will be in the interest of everybody.

He also hoped that declared feelings of concern to spare Yemeni blood will not be matched by acts that only nourish the fire, as is clear in the positions of certain brothers. He also said the Republic of Yemen, which stresses that the regrettable events and developments should be contained within a Yemeni framework, urges all brothers to stop the (?humiliating) campaigns that aim to harm the Yemeni people and their reputation.

He stressed that the Republic of Yemen underlines the need for cooperation and solidarity among fraternal countries, which should employ logic and dialogue to overcome the negative aspects of Arab realities, including relations with neighboring states, with open minds in order to guarantee mutual rights and common interests.

Ministry Bans Use of Firearms To Express Joy

JN0607111494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Brothers and sisters, here is an announcement: The Interior Ministry announces to all citizens that using firearms to express joy on various occasions is strictly prohibited. While congratulating the Yemeni people on the victories of the forces of unity and legitimacy, the Interior Ministry appeals to the brother citizens to express their joy well by avoiding whatever disturbs public order and security. It warns against any violation and announces that it will take firm measures against the violators.

Government Denies Role in Mashhad Explosion

JN0207205194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] A responsible Foreign Ministry source has commented on Iranian claims and allegations and on associating Iraq's name with the explosion incident that took place in the city of Mashhad on 20 June 1994. The source said:

First, the Government of the Republic of Iraq strongly denies the Iranian claims and allegations, and emphasizes it had nothing to do, whether directly or indirectly, with the explosion incident at the Imam Reza shrine in the city of Mashhad on 20 June 1994. It voices astonishment at the Iranian government's attempt to intentionally associate Iraq's name with this incident.

Second, the Government of the Republic of Iraq on many occasions and through various means has explicitly stated its interest and sincere desire to solve the issues that are pending with the Iranian side in a manner that serves the two countries' legitimate interests. It has exerted ceaseless efforts in this respect. Such an accusation is not in line with the sincere wish and the good intentions that the Republic of Iraq has demonstrated toward its relationship with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Third, the Government of the Republic of Iraq reminds the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran that accusing Iraq of this incident is part of a series that the Iranian authorities are carrying out, consisting of the many recent serious violations and encroachments on the sovereignty of the Republic of Iraq and its territorial integrity in order to obstruct Iraq's sincere efforts to establish an atmosphere of mutual confidence that is based on the principle of good neighborliness and noninterference in the domestic affairs of the two countries.

Fourth, the presence of the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization on Iraqi territory does not necessarily mean that Iraq has anything to do with this organization's work or activities. Iran knows full well that this organization has a presence and acts in several other states. Despite this, it did not try to mention the names of these states, as it did with Iraq. This reflects premeditated Iranian intent, in addition to deluding Iranian and international public opinion by diverting their attention from the true situation in Iran, as well as from its hosting of the misled traitorous agents who use Iranian territories as a base and a springboard for their terroristic anti-Iraqi activities, and by diverting attention from their supplying them with arms and funds to enable them to achieve their acts of sabotage against the Iraqi people.

Fifth, the Government of the Republic of Iraq once again reiterates its commitment to and respect for the principles of good neighborliness and the rules of international relations, and calls on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to abide by these principles in the service of the two countries' interests, to stop its violations of the principles and norms of the international relations, and also to stop its repeated violations of Iraq's international border and air space.

Paper Refutes Iranian Claims About POW's

JN0407135394 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 27 Jun 94 p 3

["Standpoint" column by Sabri Hammadi: "The POW's Case and the Tehran Dilemma"]

[Text] Once again, the Tehran regime is telling lies and making false claims about the existence of Iranian POW's in Iraq, such as the claim by Nazaran, chairman of the Iranian POW's Committee a few days ago, when he said: "Documents received from the International Committee of the Red Cross indicate the existence of large numbers of Iranians inside detention camps in Iraq!"

And, once again we say the Tehran regime's dilemma over the POW's issue began with the first lie that the regime made about the number of its dead in the war. The Tehran regime did not reveal the bitter truth to its people. It did not tell them that most of the missing Iranians were killed in battle. It continued to lie to the Iranians throughout the war so as not to reveal the large numbers of dead. It is lying even now. Here is Nazaran making false claims while he knows that there is not a single Iranian POW left in Iraq today!

Not long ago, the president of the Iranian regime himself admitted in a sermon during a prayer service for 850 Iranian soldiers whose bodies were found in battle scenes by saying: "Many of the soldiers who we thought were still being detained in Iraq might have actually been killed in the war between the two countries." The fact that Rafsanjani used the words "might have been killed" instead of the words "were killed" does not lessen the importance of that admission. Hashemi-Rafsanjani did not want to admit the whole truth at once.

In addition to this frank and documented admission by the president of the Iranian regime, the Iranian authorities have more than once discovered the bodies of hundreds of dead Iranian soldiers on the battlefields. This is further evidence to show that those whom Tehran claimed were still detained in Iraq were actually killed in fierce battles and that there are no more POW's in Iraq. There is not a single Iranian detainee left, because Iraq has released them all.

In light of these facts, the Iranian regime is called upon to stop making false claims about the existence of Iranian detainees in Iraq and to admit to the Iranian people that their men missing in action were almost all killed. Whoever was lucky enough to be captured has been released. The Iranian regime is also called upon to stop its attempts to distort the responsible Iraqi stand on the POW's issue. Moreover, it is called upon to release more

than 20,000 Iraqi POW's who are still being detained without any right, contrary to the Third Geneva Convention of 1987.

It remains to be said that Nazaran's statement, which is not based on facts, provides tangible proof that the Iranian regime, which feigns a desire to normalize its relations with Iraq, is not actually serious about normalizing these relations. It has not given up its crooked, sterile methods of dealing with Iraq, especially on the POW's issue. Had it been serious, it would not have continued speaking about existence of Iranian POW's in Iraq and it would have released the 20,000 and more Iraqi POW's who are still being detained.

Ba'th Party May Nominate 'Udayy as Vice President

PM0607114094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jul 94 p4

[Report by the Political Studies Center: "Iraqi Ba'th Party To Hold Its Regional Congress in 10 Days; News of Nomination of 'Udayy as Vice President"]

[Text] London—An informed Iraqi source has revealed that the ruling Ba'th Party in Iraq will hold its regional congress in mid-July. It is expected to introduce major changes to the centers of power in the country with the possibility of nominating 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi President's son, for the post of vice president.

The source said that local district and provincial congresses started their work at the beginning of July to elect representatives of the Ba'th Party branches to the the regional congress which is considered the party's highest body in the country. The results of these congresses and elections showed the influences of certain factional, regional, and family trends to be receding in the party.

On the basis of the results of these local elections, the regional congress is expected to witness a complete liquidation of some hitherto influential factional and family groups including the Mosul bloc, the Juburi bloc, and the Duri bloc whose main symbols have already been gradually brought down.

Furthermore, the regional congress is expected to elect substitutes for four Regional Command members who have been dismissed from their posts. They are Nuri Faysal al-Hadithi, Fawzi Khalaf Azriq who comes from Tikrit and was formerly the Ba'th Party's official in Kuwait, former Public Security Director 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Duri, and Khadr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Duri who is the official in charage of the ruling party's organizations in the north and the brother of Sabir al-Duri, the former chief of intelligence who was dismissed about a month ago.

The same source said that the congress might dismiss 'Izzat al-Duri, considered, at least formally, to be the second man in Iraq after Saddam Husayn. There is some information confirming that 'Udayy Saddam Husayn and his uncle Sab'awi Ibrahim, who is in charge of public security, will be elected as Regional Command members.

The source spoke of strong rumors that the congress might stage another "theatrical ploy," probably agreed upon in advance, in which there would be a unanimous decision to ask President Saddam Husayn to approve the appointment of his son 'Udayy as vice president.

The source tips a number of current officials for dismissal from the Regional Command, including Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Raziq, the party's official in al-Basrah, and Mazhar Matani al-Dulaymi, the party's official in Diyala and Ba'qubah, and others.

The congress is expected to discuss the conditions in Iraq in the light of the sanctions imposed on it and reconsider Iraq's internal and foreign policies pursued since the cease-fire in the second Gulf war.

Saddam Comments on Decisionmaking at Cabinet Session

JN0707090794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2004 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said: Our slogan has now become great and apparent to the Iraqis, the Arabs, and the mankind and we have achieved harmony between this slogan and our stand and actions. Even to those who are unfair toward us, we have become well-known for our serious words and deeds.

His excellency said: There are two ways of governing. The first is a traditional one that does not realize tangible results, and the second is the path of change that rectifies incorrect paths and clarifies and upholds supreme values, effecting social and national cohesion.

The president's remarks came when he chaired the ninth session of the Council of Ministers. The president said: We must prevent any action that harms the majority of the people. We must study every harmful case of deviation. We must observe our departments' ability in following up and in implementation, and evaluate losses, if they exist. We then must ask ourselves a definite question and answer it: Will this decision or step lead to the stability of our people, especially youth?

When we become certain that the answers prove that the majority of our people support this decision or step, we make our final decision and move on to the next step.

The Council of Ministers discussed issues on its agenda. They included proper regulations concerning the money market, leading to strengthening its role in regulating investments.

The council also discussed conditions in the scientific research centers at the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and adopted the necessary measures concerning them.

Saddam Meets With Interior Ministry Officials

JN0607162794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has met with Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, the Interior Ministry under secretary, and an number of ministry officials.

Saddam Orders 25 Percent Increase on Annuities

JN0407133794 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 25 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] AL-QADISIYAH has learned that leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered that retirees with 25 years of service and more and whose total annuities and allowances are more than 500 but less than 625 dinars shall get a 25 percent increase on their annuities and allowances, provided their total monthly annuity with this increase does not exceed 625 dinars. This generous offer shall be paid as of the beginning of February 1994. This was confirmed to AL-QADISIYAH by Muwaffaq 'Atisha, director general of the Retirement Department.

Columnist Praises Saddam's Performance as Premier

JN0407161894 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 29 Jun 94 pp 1, 15

["Viewpoint" by Salah al-Mukhtar: "Appreciable Positive Effects and Clear Breakthrough]

[Text] It is now a month since His Excellency President Saddam Husayn assumed the premiership. The move was necessitated by the need to mobilize state and party resources in the effort to beat the embargo.

The past month has vindicated leader President Saddam Husayn's leadership qualities and brilliance as he tackles problems and identifies inadequacies. This has been most evident in the relative price stability and a downward trend in staple food prices that must be credited to well-considered decisions.

The prevailing trend had been for inflationary prices; the drop in the cost of staples is the first such shift for some time. Ordinary citizens had been under tremendous pressure and struggling to make ends meet. Thus, coming, as they did, after a long spell of hardship, the recent measures must be a source of considerable relief for ordinary Iraqis.

His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn is anxious to see the measures have a lasting, rather than temporary effect; previously, such measures benefited only certain state agencies and, besides, were few and far between. The brake on inflationary prices, then, is not being applied as a stopgap to provide relief for a week or two. It is a pattern that will prevail as long as the sanctions remain in place. Investing party organizations with additional powers to enforce discipline, over and above the power of oversight they already wield, along with a string of stern decisions to punish violators are eloquent testimony to the earnestness and continuity of the measures. Far from being a temporary arrangement, the measures are a virtual appeal to offenders to reconsider and mend their ways. Fiddling with the livelihoods of the population should no longer go unpunished.

The growing role of the party, people's councils, and state organizations in the effort to check inflationary prices sends the message that the Iraqi people's latent forces are being unlocked for the betterment of their lot.

Backed up by a series of sensible measures to supplement individual incomes and state coffers, a combination of cutting the price of staple food items and arresting the decline in the value of the dinar, has boosted the purchasing power of low- and middle- income groups. It should also help prop up the dinar and put some order in the market so as to advance the interests of lower income groups.

Last but not least, it must be said that all these positive measures and decisions should be complemented by an empathic and collaborative effort on the part of the citizenry, not least given that they were intended for its own good. Unless consumers make an effort not to gratify price violators, the efforts of the state, party, and people's councils will be largely frustrated.

Surely, one month is a relatively short period to assess the long-term impact of the recent decisions. Yet they have shown the inflationary conditions of the market to be artificial, and, therefore, capable of being eliminated or eased through a package of prudent and stern measures backed up by public oversight.

Punishment Urged for 'Agents' Tampering With Food

JN0407182694 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 30 Jun 94 p 12

["Above the Red Line" column by Fawzi Ibrahim: "Who Manipulates the Price Game?"]

[Text] It has become clear that the enemies target the Iraqi individual. The Mother of Battles has exposed this big conspiracy, which is aimed at undermining the value of the individual and the homeland. The enemies have used all means of destruction. When all these means have failed, the rancorous ones resorted to sabotaging the psychology of the Iraqi individual, and to destroying the patience and endurance of the sons of our struggler people through imposing the economic blockade and the policy of starvation, and by closing all the outlets through which the people can continue to secure their food and health needs. Each time, one of the rancorous agents of the United States, of the Gulf Arabs, makes statements which target the spirit of this patient and struggler people with the objective of continuing the unjust economic blockade against them. Regrettably, some of the sons of our people have become captives to these statements and propaganda, whether those made

by the symbols of the U.S. imperialism or by their agents who seek to undermine Iraq's patience, pride, and strength.

Once again, we say that there are unseen hands exploiting this game, represented by a group of merchants who tamper with the people's food. This group belongs to a corrupt class of brokers at the money market, who only care for increasing their profit and for making millions at the expense of the people's daily food, as well as for exploiting these circumstances to increase the prices of commodities and foodstuffs.

Gentlemen, it is a big conspiracy that is being hatched abroad and implemented inside the country. This conspiracy seeks to sabotage and destroy the national economy and to make profits at the expense of this patient people. I do not understand the secret behind the increase of these prices, for the economic blockade has been imposed on our people for four years, so what is new, and why are we affected by this dirty game?

The political leadership is aware of this game. It has always been aware of its dimensions. This is why it was able to do everything for the sake of keeping the Iraqi people, with all their classes, lofty with their heads high, and of preventing them from bowing down to the symbols of U.S. imperialism.

We can say that the competent authorities must adopt the necessary measures to protect our people. These measures should include the punishment of those who tamper with the people's food. This is in addition to some necessary financial measures to restore balance to the money market and to stop this serious deterioration at the money market. This can be done by adopting some decisions through which we can restore this balance, especially since it has become unreasonable to ignore this game, and since the citizen is waiting for the competent authorities to interfere so that he can be reassured that this game cannot deceive the sons of our people, and that the coming days will not be the most difficult ones in the life of our people. The agents will fall, whether inside or outside, because our people's will is stronger than them, and their patience is the patience of the faithful mujahidin.

RCC Decrees New Penalties for Antiquity Smugglers

JN0407092394 Baghdad INA in English 0810 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, July 4, INA—The Revolution Command Council has passed new resolution against the antiquities smuggling.

The punishment shall be the life imprisonment or the death penalty against he who is actually convicted of smuggling arcaeological findings that contribute to seriously affecting the national economy.

Writer Views Justifications, Results of Import Ban

JN0207112794 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 28 Jun 94 p 3

[Article by Sa'id 'Abbud al-Samirra'i]

[Text] The Trade Ministry has recently banned all imports and dealing in 91 commodities and set a two-month deadline for implementing this decision in full.

Citizens have been focusing their attention and asking questions about the justifications for this decision, as well as the results expected from it, especially since—in their view—some commodities are important and should not be banned, particularly various types of cloth, some types of batteries, and other important consumer goods.

In this short article, I will answer all questions dealing with this subject in terms of its justifications and expected results.

1. The current circumstances in Iraq—under the malicious and deliberate siege that has no justifications since Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations as stipulated in the Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution 687—requires efforts to tackle the economic crises resulting from the siege through effective decisions that can alleviate the burden caused by high inflation, which is mainly the result of the continuous increase in the dollar price. Naturally, these decisions will lead to some sort of economic stability.

After the leader president, may God protect him, assumed the post of prime minister nearly one month ago, the government adopted many decisions that helped ease the hardship of certain economic problems, such as stable prices for some food commodities and even a decline in the price of some of these commodities compared with their past prices.

2. Banning the importation of 91 commodities means reducing huge sums, in dollars, that had been allocated for financing importation of these commodities, and this means preventing the leakage of these sums abroad to the trading companies that import these goods. Naturally, huge sums in dollars will be saved as a result of importation ban on some goods, most of which are unnecessary, especially in this stage through which our country is passing. This will stabilize the dollar price in Iraq after reducing demand on it by importers. This will naturally lead to allocating the available quantities of dollars for importing essential food commodities and medicines for the citizens.

Generally speaking, it can be said that the policy of importing without remittance, which was introduced several years ago, was responsible for the results that we feel in our economic life, represented in the high demand on the dollar and its constant soaring price. This, in turn, led to the deterioration in the value of our national

currency that caused this wave of inflation, whose negative results on incomes and the standard of living are shouldered by ordinary citizens.

3. At this stage, it is impossible to curb the dollar price hike without restricting the heavy demand for the dollar by a large number of importers who import unnecessary goods. A simple look at the list of commodities that have been banned makes it clear that most of them are unnecessary. Even those that are necessary, such as cloth and some food commodities, citizens can do without for a period estimated to last six months at most.

4. Banning the importation of this large number of commodities means reducing demand on these commodities at the local market on the one hand, and reducing demand on the dollar to import these goods. It is natural that the stability of the dollar price at the markets will undoubtedly lead to the stability of prices in general. If this is coupled with a reduction in government expenditure, and the subsequently issuance of currency, a state of stability and economic balance will take place, represented by the stability of prices, especially the dollar price, and will probably reduce its price in the medium term.

Opposition Radio Reports Bodies Returned From Yemen

LD0307111994 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] An Iraqi opposition radio today quoted eyewitnesses as saying they had seen metal coffins containing the bodies of some officers of the Iraqi regime arriving in the city of Mosul.

The opposition al-'Ummah radio said that the bodies were of officers of the so-called Republican Guard who had been killed in the current war in Yemen.

Plans for 'Foreign Intervention' in Yemen Seen

JN0407140194 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 27 Jun 94 p 5

["Attention" column by Hasan al-Kashif: "Invasion Through Internationalization"]

[Text] The parties opposed to the Yemeni people's defense of their unity, sovereignty, and independence have revealed all their cards. A short while after the separatists began the fighting and showed their weakness, isolation, and retreat, the enemies of Yemen came out in the open to wage a political and military war.

Washington addressed an ultimatum to the legitimate Yemeni authorities, drawing a red line at the liberation of Aden from the separatists. With this ultimatum, Washington not only showed its open interference in an internal Yemeni affair, but also declared its protection of the separatists and their intention to continue the Yemeni bloodshed and thus prevent a final settlement of the conflict. By addressing its ultimatum and threatening the legitimate Yemeni leadership against settling the Aden battle, Washington adopted a stand against Yemeni unity and stability and showed a disinclination toward lessening the losses of the civil war there.

The Al Sa'ud rulers also come out of their holes to openly wage war on Yemen on the political, military, and of course financial levels. Here is Sa'ud al-Faysal touring the region and visiting capitals far and near in order to rally the required support and protection for the secession. Since he does not have the legal right to do that, he uses all the money he has to collect sufficient ministerial signatures in order to forge Arab will within the Arab League. The Al Sa'ud rulers are also waging war on the military level. Arms supplies have not stopped across the border or through Mubarak, who transports these Saudi supplies to the separatists via the Red Sea.

Besides the military and political support, financial support for the separatists has also not stopped from Riyadh and Kuwait, where there are slaves who have no role other than sabotaging, destroying, weakening, and mutilating the region in order to bring it under U.S. hegemony. For the sake of this aim, the funds of the al-Sabah and Al Sa'ud go to the separatists in Yemen and to the gangs and mercenaries in northern Iraq. The funds also go to the grandsons of Begin and Shamir in Tel Aviv.

What those overlords and slaves are waging is an open war against Yemen and its sovereignty, unity, and legitimacy. In that dirty war, political efforts are trying to make up for military failures. Therefore, the conspirators are trying to transfer the decisionmaking from the battlefronts, where the legitimate authorities are winning, to the arenas of the Arab League and the United Nations, where U.S. tyranny and Saudi funds are dominant. In those arenas, preparations are under way to internationalize the conflict as a cover for foreign intervention. Field preparations are also underway for intervention. Recognition of the secession would provide the bridgehead they need. The internationalization needs a harbor, an airport, and military bases. And, it is no coincidence that this is also what foreign intervention needs.

Saudi 'Conspiracies' Against Yemen Assailed

JN0407203794 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 30 Jun 94 p 2

["Hot Issues" column by Hani Ibrahim 'Ashur: "The Saudi Conspiracies Against Yemen, and the Arabs' Unerasable Memory"]

[Text] The Arabs' collective memory cannot forget the role Saudi Arabia played to demolish the unity achieved between Egypt and Syria in 1958. Nobody can forget that the ruling Saudi dynasty opened its coffers for certain agents to tear this unity apart and assassinate its leaders. The Saudi regime concocted several conspiracies against this unity. Worse still, this regime carefully implemented Zionist and U.S. imperialist designs to kill this unity.

Saudi money has been used to betray the Arab nation. However, the Arabs constantly thought that the Saudi regime could change its colors.

But, it seems that treason was not a transient characteristic of the Saudi conduct. Treason has, indeed, become the hallmark of the conduct of all Saudi officials. This became clear on the eve of the 30-state aggression against Iraq, when the Fahd regime brought the invading troops into Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] to strike at Iraq, the citadel of Arab strength. This regime has also allowed U.S. troops and their aircraft to continue to terrorize the Arab people in Iraq and the Arabian Peninsula.

The Fahd regime has shamelessly and meanly conspired against Yemeni unity to tear it apart. It provided the secessionists with financial and military support to destabilize Yemen. The arms supplies shipped to the secessionists by this regime have become the talk of the international news media. Fahd has not been ashamed of this, nor has he been deterred, for that matter.

This treasonous Saudi approach is not only the outcome of a treasonous or aggressive passion nurtured by Fahd and his henchmen. As a matter of fact, this approach reflects the role the Al Sa'ud regime was created to play in the first place to consecrate Western hegemony on the Arab homeland and the resources of this homeland.

Consequently, we were not surprised when the Fahd regime rushed to conspire against Yemeni unity with the aim of destroying it in the aftermath of the oil discoveries made there. This Saudi endeavor acquired substantial momentum after the Yemeni people embarked on efforts to consecrate their unity along the road of Arab renaissance. So, now, the Yemeni people have had a taste of Saudi conspiracies. The treasonous approach of the agent Fahd regime has been exposed, particularly after the legitimate Yemeni Government troops brought the situation under control in Yemen. This confirms that the Saudi regime no longer has ample room for maneuvering to carry out its anti-Yemen scheme, especially since the Arab people of Yemen and all Arabs, for that matter, have now become aware of the Saudi and imperialist machinations against Yemen. This has prompted the Arab states not to recognize the sham government declared in Aden. All parties have reached the conclusion that this government is merely a shadow of the imperialists and Saudi traitors. Otherwise, how can one explain the illegitimate marriage of convenience consummated between the Fahd regime and the Marxist separatist, whose offspring will be stillborn?

The future will tell us more, and make the final judgment on current developments in Yemen.

Rabin Interviewed on Negotiations With PLO

TA0607185494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jul 94 p B2

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by HA'ARETZ correspondents Aluf Ben and Yerah Tal on 5 July; place not given]

[Text] [HA'ARETZ] Do you expect crises in the upcoming negotiations with the PLO, similar to the ones encountered in the talks on the Gaza and Jericho agreement?

[Rabin] First of all, there were no crises in the previous negotiations. We have a target timetable, and it is vital that we reach a detailed agreement on each stage. Under the Cairo agreement, this stage is to address three fields. The first is the remaining issues that need to be discussed, and some to be implemented, in the wake of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement. These include the international border crossings, the constron of which has started, and the safe passage (between Gaza and Jericho) matter. Then there are the three demands I agreed to discuss, although I clarified my stand on them in advance: special Rafah crossing arrangements, a policeman on the bridge, and the size of Jericho.

The second field is the early empowerment in at least five spheres. There is agreement on five, but we are willing to discuss additional spheres. The negotiations will not be easy. Agreement will have to be achieved on how to transfer power in the spheres of education, health, social welfare, direct taxation, and tourism. There is also the budget problem: How does it tie in with the continued existence of the Civil Administration on the one hand, and with the transfer of powers on the other.

The third field that we committed ourselves to is a timetable—we said one month after the 4 May agreement, and it is now 5 July—for convening the quadripartite committee composed of Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinians. One of the issues that were mentioned in this context was the matter of displaced Palestinians.

Now the negotiating mechanisms and formats must be put in action. We intend to do it, preferably in Egypt. They may also raise the matter of the start of the permanent status negotiations, but if we focus on all issues at once, I think progress will be very slow.

[HA'ARETZ] 'Arafat said the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will redeploy outside West Bank cities by August in anticipation of elections in the territories in October. Does this timetable seem feasible to you?

[Rabin] We know that they realize they will not be ready to hold elections in October, unless they hold municipal elections before general elections. These issues have not been finalized, except for agreements in principle featuring in the Declaration of Principles [DOP].

There is a point that has to do with the elections—what I term pre-redeployment [preceding word in English]. The DOP stipulates that the IDF will redeploy after elections are held and the elected Palestinian authority is established. It involves withdrawal from population centers, which are not clearly defined. Does it involve only cities, and what cities? All this has to be negotiated.

[HA'ARETZ] Are you not apprehensive about IDF withdrawal from cities such as Hebron, in which Jewish settlers live?

[Rabin] In the interim arrangements, problems are certain to arise, because there is no doubt that land-related arrangements in Judaea and Samaria will be nothing like those in Gaza. The deployment of IDF installations and security problems on the Jordan border—because there is no peace with Jordan; the situation is calm, but there is no peace—as well as the problem of settlements require solutions different from anything arrived at in Gaza. But the principle will be no different: They will control their population.

[HA'ARETZ] Will you accept the proposal that Palestinian police should be established in the West Bank during the early empowerment phase? It has been argued that the Palestinians will be unable to collect taxes without the backing of their own police.

[Rabin] These issues should be resolved in negotiations.

[HA'ARETZ] Are you satisfied with the implementation of the Gaza and Jericho agreement so far? Do you plan to raise any specific demands at your meeting with 'Arafat?

[Rabin] I anticipate economic hardships in Gaza if the PLO and the donor countries fail to find the ways and tools to enable donations to arrive. No such way has been found to this moment. I do not know exactly what Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] achieved in Washington and to what extent Tunis will endorse his achievements. We will probably discuss this issue.

[HA'ARETZ] Will you demand that 'Arafat start collecting taxes in Gaza and Jericho?

[Rabin] If he does not do it himself. The agreements specify the tax and customs rates that should be levied. If he does not start levying taxes, I do not know how he will have the money to finance the police or any development plan.

[HA'ARETZ] 'Arafat has demanded a refund of the national insurance payments Israel deducted from territories workers' wages since 1967. Will you agree?

[Rabin] The Paris agreement does not address this issue, with the exception of two aspects. One is our commitment to the Palestinian employees' pension funds. The Gaza Civil Administration workers have a reserve fund in our safekeeping. Since this is the workers' money, and also to prevent legal action against us in the future, we will insist on depositing these funds in an established bank and on ensuring that the managers of the funds

guarantee the workers' rights. The Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration employees have a budget pension, and we regard ourselves obligated to those employees who stop working at some point. We will not transfer these funds to others. Judging by press reports, however, 'Arafat has been speaking of workers employed in Israel, and we are not bound to them by any agreement.

From the moment the Gaza and Jericho agreement implementation begins, we are required under the Paris agreement to transfer 75 percent of taxes levied from residents of the Palestinian Authority (working in Israel), as well as social benefits, to the Palestinians. Right now, these are small amounts. Only one month has elapsed, their wages are not high, and the principle applies only to legally employed workers.

[HA'ARETZ] What about the transfer of customs funds Israel has been levying on autonomy-bound goods?

[Rabin] We deduct the dues for Gaza's electricity and water from sums we are supposed to transfer to them. The Electric Corporation has already received a first payment of 4.5 million shekels for electricity. As long as we supply them with electricity, we will expect them to pay for it, and the same goes for water. If they do not pay, their debts will be deducted from our transfers to them.

[HA'ARETZ] 'Arafat's visit this week marked an escalation in the right-wing's anti-government activity. Do you not fear that the rising protest will encumber the implementation of the next stages of the peace process?

[Rabin] No, I do not fear that. I judge, on the basis of the average of polls that have been conducted, that 55 to 65 percent support the political process. I certainly do not fear it as long as I have the necessary Knesset majority. It would be unfortunate if confrontations, such as the Jerusalem demonstration on 2 July, take place, but we will overcome that as well.

[HA'ARETZ] Do you fear a civil war?

[Rabin] I do fear violence, but I cannot believe there will be a civil war.

[HA'ARETZ] Why did you reject the suggestion to organize Labor party counter-demonstrations in support of the government?

[Rabin] I do not want demonstrations against demonstrations, which are a sure recipe for unnecessary conflict. Yet the Labor party should also be heard. In the past three months, the Labor party was preoccupied with the Histadrut elections and with the Histadrut election results, which were a blow to the party. It is not that they came as a surprise, but when dealt a blow, a party needs time to reorganize, to pick up the pieces, and to return to the arena.

Naturally, I do not deduce anything about the central facets of the national situation from the Histadrut elections, because if I did, I would delude myself that over 80 percent of the public are Labor party and further left. I do not indulge in such delusions.

[HA'ARETZ] You have been acting to expand the coalition and to coopt parties, such as YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] and possibly Tzomet. Do you not fear it will tie up the government's peace endeavors? Do you not think it is the narrow coalition that ensures stability?

[Rabin] We could see after this week's no-confidence debate that although our present coalition is made up of 56 people, plus the five Knesset members [MK's] of Arab Democratic Party and HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], we have no serious problems with the Knesset when the political-security issue is debated. A broader coalition would be naturally better, but there is no urgency.

[HA'ARETZ] Will you agree to include only two out of the three YI'UD MK's in the coalition and to give them ministerial and deputy ministerial posts?

[Rabin] There is a bona fide dialogue, and we will see whether it will be two or more.

[HA'ARETZ] And what about Tzomet?

[Rabin] Right now there are almost no contacts.

[HA'ARETZ] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is returning to our area this month. Do you expect any achievements as a result of this visit?

[Rabin] During Christopher's visit, which will apparently start on 18 July, we want to move the talks with Jordan from Washington to our region. We might start somewhere in the 'Arava and then rotate the meetings between Israel and Jordan. One of the ideas raised was to hold a tripartite meeting on the foreign minister level.

[HA'ARETZ] Is this the end of the Washington bilateral talks?

[Rabin] The previous format, wherein all the parties travelled for a limited period of time to Washington, forced all the Arab sides to coordinate their positions and adopt the most extremist position.

We started out with the Palestinians and following a very long process agreed to recognize the PLO as a partner. Today the negotiations with the Palestinians—which started in Madrid—are being conducted on the basis of the DOP and the Cairo agreement, and do not depend on other partners. I would like Jordan to implement what was agreed with them in Washington by turning to direct talks, at least until we attain all the necessary components for a peace treaty.

[HA'ARETZ] What about Syria?

[Rabin] At this stage it is unwilling to have direct talks anywhere other than Washington and on the level of Muwaffaq all- 'Allaf (head of the Syrian delegation) and Walid al-Mu'allim (Syria's ambassador in Washington).

We must therefore accept the United States' good services. At the present time there is a huge gap, and therefore I would not like to create the impression that there is a dialogue with Syria and that one round of talks will suffice. The process will have to be much longer than that.

[HA'ARETZ] People in Israel have recently leveled criticism at Christopher and the U.S. Administration for not doing enough to advance negotiations with Syria. Do you share this assessment?

[Rabin] The United States is adopting the right attitude, namely, not to exert pressure on anybody and not to formulate its own proposals and present it to the sides. It understands that the agreement should be achieved between the two sides who must bear the responsibility and consequences, for better or for worse. The United States can have an impact by trying to convince the sides, but there is no place for an independent U.S. position.

[HA'ARETZ] When will you agree to spell out the withdrawal line on the Golan Heights?

[Rabin] It would be extremely stupid of me to draw this line at the present time. Drawing the line publicly is no way to conduct negotiations.

[HA'ARETZ] Syria has recently conducted a trial launch of a Scud missile. Several days later you issued a public warning regarding the Syrian missile buildup. Do you regard the trial launch as merely a technical operation or as also a political signal in anticipation of Christopher's visit?

[Rabin] I do not believe there was a political message here, although Syria is probably aware of the fact that the world will find out about the test. The process of the Syrian buildup is continuing all the time. The same, however, also holds true for our Army and other armies in the world.

[HA'ARETZ] Do you believe Syria is approaching strategic parity with Israel?

[Rabin] I assess that it stands no chance of attaining strategic parity in the foreseeable future. This does not mean, however, that it is not making any efforts to increase its military power.

[HA'ARETZ] Is there no contradiction between your warnings about a war with Syria and your willingness to implement a significant withdrawal on the Golan, when control over it is a constant threat to Damascus?

[Rabin] Our presence on the Golan Heights can serve as a deterrent, but it can also have an opposite result. I do not think we should try to determine what is the case. Egypt, for example, has become much stronger qualitatively. It has purchased Western weapons which are much more advanced than what it had previously. They have F-16 jet fighters, they will receive Apache helicopter gunships and advanced U.S. tanks.

[HA'ARETZ] Against whom are all these weapons directed?

[Rabin] Ask Egypt. I am not going to ask it this question as long as we have peace and the peace treaty with all its clauses is being implemented. The agreement does not contain any Israeli or Egyptian commitment regarding the size of the Egyptian Army.

[HA'ARETZ] Will you demand that Syria, in the framework of a peace arrangement, reduce the size of its army?

[Rabin] Everything will be done on the basis of reciprocity. The security arrangements will be implemented on a reciprocal basis and appropriate geographical proportions. In our agreement with Egypt, for example, the Egyptian demilitarized zone is not identical to the four kilometers on the Israeli side, which are in fact not demilitarized, rather only thinned out.

[HA'ARETZ] This week another soldier was killed in Lebanon. Do you expect another escalation along the northern border?

[Rabin] There were two relatively calm weeks. The IDF Intelligence Branch, General Staff, and I knew that Hizballah could not remain quiet after the severe blow it received in Nab' al-Dardarah; al-Dirani's abduction to Israel; and several successful clashes with them.

[HA'ARETZ] Foreign Minister Peres talks a lot about the new Middle East he envisions following the peace agreements. We do not hear you expressing yourself in a similar vein. How do you envision the fruits of peace?

[Rabin] I sincerely hope that when comprehensive peace prevails new opportunities for regional development will open. We have had peace with Egypt for the last 15 years, yet our exports to it are smaller than our exports to Chile. From the economic point of view I regard the peace process first of all as an opening of the world toward Israel. The economic achievements were not scored on the Israeli-Arab sphere. We must remember that the joint GNP of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria is less than that of Israel. When I was in Egypt eight or nine months ago I was surprised to learn that its national budget is somewhat less that one half of Israel's despite the fact that it has a population of 60 million people.

The immediate economic development, mainly in terms of exports or investments in Israel, stems from new international markets being opened to us. The main rise in exports is in the Far East. I hope that as we advance in the peace process what remains of the Arab boycott will disappear, and that investments will be made in regional development projects. All this, however, is still a vision for the future.

[HA'ARETZ] People say that if the government falls it will be because of the stock market and the economy rather than the political agreements. Are you concerned about the market falls? Following the recent rise of interest rates, do you support the proposals to limit the independence of the Bank of Israel governor?

[Rabin] We are witnessing a strange situation here. The Israeli economy is showing good figures; there is an impressive growth rate, especially in the business sector; exports are on the rise and unemployment is on the wane. At the same time we are reaching the limit of our economic development due to a shortage in professional manpower. Israeli companies are looking for hundreds of computer experts. There is also a shortage in electricians and other technical professions.

At the same time we are witnessing the stock market process, which is not reflecting the real state of the Israeli economy. In order to effectively intervene one has to know what is influencing it. Before the Bank of Israel governor decided to raise interest rates a Bank of Israel economist said it was a good thing, while a Treasury economist said the opposite. It appears that economy is not a precise science. We have to examine what is happening here. I have still not received a precise briefing, but I intend to delve into this issue.

[HA'ARETZ] What will you do with the UNESCO prize you will receive with Peres and 'Arafat (the three will share 400,000 shekels among them)?

[Rabin] I will sit down with Peres in Paris and together we will decide to whom to contribute the money.

Ambassador to Israel Views Palestinian Self-Rule

NC0707071294 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Egypt's Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni, in Tel Aviv, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; on the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Al-Jundi] The next stage will witness the expansion of Palestinian self-rule. In your meetings with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, did you sense a definitive Palestinian view on the next negotiations?

[Basyuni] No doubt we face problems concerning the first stage of Gaza and Jericho, including Jericho's area and the policing of the bridges and border. There are outstanding issues that we should settle first before moving on to an early transfer of authority in the rest of the West Bank.

There are three areas in which there must be a change on the ground so that the Palestinian citizen can feel the success of this phase. The first is a security change on the ground. After the Israeli Army withdrew, Palestinian police assumed responsibility and security and stability was achieved in a manner that stunned everyone. No one expected the Palestinian police in such a short period to control the situation and achieve security.

The second point or change is a political change, by transferring power from the Israeli civilian administration to the Palestinian authority. This took place the day before yesterday when the Palestinian authority took the legal oath and assumed power. God willing, this authority will assume its tasks and we hope it will succeed.

The third change that must happen on the ground is an economic one. Of course this economic change cannot succeed without devising a sound, advanced, economic plan to develop the Palestinian economy. This requires financial resources, which, in turn, require the arrival of funds designated by donor nations. This is in addition to the funds the Palestinian authority will obtain from tax levies and funds levied by Israel in the past.

[Al-Jundi] The enthusiasm with which Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat was received when he returned to Gaza and the Palestinian land so that the Palestinian revolution could for the first time operate over Palestinian land must be followed by Palestinian economic activity to reconstruct Gaza and Jericho, especially as the infrastructure was destroyed by 27 years of occupation. Do you think there will be economic achievements on Palestinian land in the coming stage or is this primarily linked with donor nations' meetings?

[Basyuni] They are all interlinked. There must be a sound economic plan and we must work to ensure that the funds designated by the donor nations reach the Palestinian authority. At the same time the authority that has begun its tasks must begin to carry out its duties in this regard and urge Israel to return the funds it levied from taxes and social insurances. The Palestinian Authority must begin to levy taxes and include them in the budget.

[Al-Jundi] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres undoubtedly come at an important stage. An important question is raised: Is Egypt holding contacts between the Palestinian and Israeli sides after the start of the Palestinian self-rule's first phase?

[Basyuni] No doubt the contacts are continuing with all parties. As you know, Egypt has a primary and pivotal role in the peace process and is in continuous touch.... [sentence incomplete as heard]. Let us not forget that a major part of the next talks will take place in Egypt. Agreement will be reached on holding the greater part of these talks in Egypt.

[Al-Jundi] Are there contacts on working out a specific agenda for the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations?

[Basyuni] The meeting held between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and President 'Arafat resulted in devising a timetable and concept and, God willing, it will be implemented according to the agreement reached.

Tunisia Cancels Planned Interests Office

TA0707101094 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Jul 94 p 5

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] A newspaper report has led Tunisia to retract its intention to open an interests office in Israel, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres revealed yesterday. The plan, which was revoked, also included an Israeli office in the Belgian Embassy in Tunis. "The newspaper report ruined the whole thing," Peres said. "We were on the verge of finalizing and signing an agreement, but the Tunisian representatives have advised us that they do not plan to pursue the process for the time being." The plan was initially made public in YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

Likud Presents Plan for Jerusalem 'Fortification'

TA0707131394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] In a news conference today, the Likud presented its plan for the fortification and unity of Jerusalem. Knesset Member Binyamin Netanyahu explained that he intended to present the plan to the prime minister but, according to him, for the past three weeks, Yitzhaq Rabin has refused to meet him. This is why the Likud decided to present the plan at a news conference.

Our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the main points of the plan are: fortifying the satellite towns around Jerusalem and creating territorial continuity between them and the capital; distancing PLO institutes from the city; doubling construction; adding industrial zones; and other points.

Likud Bureau Condemns 'Extremists,' Rabin Statements

TA0707062594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] The Likud bureau has decided to condemn extremists who engage in violent activity during demonstrations and thus undermine the very cause for which the Likud is fighting.

The Likud bureau also decided to portray Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements against the Likud as a threat to democracy. Knesset Member 'Uzi Landau, the chairman of the bureau, told our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal that the prime minister's behavior is designed to delegitimize his political rivals and thus constitutes a deviation from democratic mores.

Envoy Instructs Consulates on Right-Wingers

TA0707061694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Israel's Ambassador in Washington Itamar Rabinovich has issued instructions to Israeli Consulates throughout the United States on how to deal with the antigovernment campaign organized by the right wing against peace agreements with the Arabs.

Addressing the issue of a peace accord with Syria, Rabinovich says the idea of placing American forces on the Golan Heights is not aimed at protecting Israel; rather, the forces would act as observers, like those in the Sinai, to check that a comprehensive peace arrangement was being kept.

In the instructions, Rabinovich says it had to be clarified whether right-wing protests were against the placement of American forces on the Golan or against any peace accord involving territorial compromise with Syria. He added that the matter should not be dragged into the area of public debate, which is the aim of opponents of the peace process.

Commentary Views Placing U.S. Troops in Golan

TA0607171494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jul 94 p B1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "The Israeli Right and the U.S. Soldier"]

[Text] While the Israeli right is busy conducting a struggle in Israel against an arrangement with the Palestinians and for the cancellation of the Oslo and Cairo agreements, in the United States it is using different methods in an attempt to prevent an agreement with Syria in the wake of which Israel will have to withdraw from the Golan Heights. This seemingly indirect and sophisticated attitude appears to be simplistic and dangerous.

The tactic the Israeli right employs, in association with right-wing U.S. citizen and bodies, seeks to intimidate the American public. Through lectures and newspaper ads, the U.S. public is being told that if the United States is incorporated into an agreement on the Golan Heights, it would be risking the lives of U.S. soldiers.

One of the ads the Israeli right took the trouble to publish in the United States reads: Remember the 18 U.S. soldiers killed in Somalia. Have you forgotten the 241 Marines who were killed in Lebanon? Have we forgotten Colonel Higgins (who was a UN observer) who was tortured and killed in Lebanon? The chance that American soldiers assigned to peacekeeping duties will get killed is far greater than the chance that they will actually defend peace, the ad reads. Further on, the ad raises the possibility that Israel—not only terrorists—might hurt U.S. soldiers on the Golan, if it is forced to strike a preemptive blow in the wake of an assessment that Syria is about to attack. The political conclusion drawn from this ad is, naturally, that placing U.S. troops on the Golan is endangering peace.

In this sweeping maneuver, the Israeli right is telling the American public much more than just "watch out for the lives of your sons who are sent to serve on the Golan

Heights." It also states: We cannot trust peace, on the Golan in particular and with the Arabs in general. This is a risky peace, therefore it should not be invested in. Any investment in peace between Israel and Syria or other Arab countries is a waste. Hence, it is not only not worth it to send soldiers or observers to the Golan Heights, it is not even worth it to invest money or equipment in peace because any such investment would be made in vain. The Israeli right is telling the Americans that the only thing they should be investing in is maintaining the status quo between us and the Arabs, and that they should force the Arabs to accept this reality. This is the deal it is offering.

The American right may buy the idea that not a single soldier, or even an observer, should be sent to the Golan; but will it accept the need to cultivate the status quo between Israel and the Arabs?!

It is doubtful that the Israeli right is really concerned with the wellbeing of American soldiers. It does not want a peace with Syria in which Israel has to give up anything. It rejects peace through compromise. In one of its recent moves, the right has managed to garner the support of a U.S. senator who presented an amendment to a draft bill according to which the allocation of funds for the purpose of placing U.S. troops on the Golan Heights would be banned. The offer was eventually foiled with the help of the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

Israel should beware of placing U.S. Army units to come between us and the Syrians, but not because of the reasons motivating the right but due to the fear that such in-between American forces might cause an erosion in the unique U.S.-Israeli relations. It may be assumed that the United States will want to maintain a balanced and neutral stand on every matter and its special attitude toward its Israeli ally may, eventually, be affected.

This is not to say that we should oppose the presence of U.S. observers, supervisors, or even a symbolic military unit that would take part in a peacekeeping force, similar to the one stationed in the Sinai. There is no need for a large American force that would be tasked with repelling a Syrian attack on Israel or chasing terrorists who might be coming from across the Syrian or the Lebanese border. Should the need arise, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and only the IDF, will do that.

Apparently, this is the way Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, and Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq feel about it. The Israeli General Staff does not talk about an American shielding force on the Golan Heights when peace comes. This is why there is no talk about large American units or brigades, as one U.S. source reported. Even those who exaggerate do not expect more that one or two U.S. battalions to be stationed here alongside other barrier forces.

The size of the American force has not yet been discussed with Israel. It appears that Rabin has not yet decided on the desired size and wants to leave the options open for negotiations. The U.S. offer, presented to the two parties, speaks about an American willingness to give guarantees for the new border, provided that the parties will want them and Congress approves them. The Pentagon has been asked to examine various alternatives, and the numbers named are not official.

The U.S. administration must certainly have its own plan, which does not always coincide with Israeli interests; for example, a larger American force which, in due time, could replace the Israelis in warning stations such as the one on Mount Hermon. The IDF is rejecting this option.

Suspect in Attack Captured; Fatah Member Gets Life

TA0707105994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jul 94 p A3

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin and ITIM]

[Excerpts] Yesterday the Shin Bet, in cooperation with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the West Bank, captured a 19- year-old terrorist, Mansur 'Atif Riyah from the village of Qarawat Bani-Hasan, who is suspected of attempting to stab to death the Sakuri couple from Qiryat Netafim at dawn last Friday [1 July]. Yoram Sakuri was seriously injured by the assailant, while his wife, Hana, suffered moderate injuries. [passage omitted]

A number of incidents, in one of which a Ramallah resident was wounded by a rubber bullet, were reported yesterday in the territories.

Several stone-throwing incidents were reported in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. There were no reports of Palestinians wounded in these incidents. [passage omitted]

Yesterday the Nabulus Military Court sentenced Fatah member Sa'id Fayd Dayb Ghubar, about 20, from the Nabulus District village of Hajjah, to life imprisonment plus 25 years. The defendant had been convicted of murder, two counts of manslaughter, and five counts of kidnapping of residents whom he suspected of collaboration. [passage omitted]

The Tel Aviv District Court sentenced Simona Biton, 28, from Petah Tiqva, who had been convicted of selling weapons to a Lod Arab, to four years in prison and three years suspended. [passage omitted]

Editorial Views Relations With PRC, U.S. Pressure

TA0607173394 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 6 Jul 94 p 9

[Editorial: "Better China Than Yasin"]

[Text] Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, has gained doubly: Not only is he on a mission to China, but due to his absence, he has been spared the task of

supervising Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Gaza and Jericho, and he has even been given a respite from the south Lebanon hardships, where his soldiers have been killed in battle and in accidents this week. The original timing for the visit to China was some time ago and was called off on the very eve of the trip to Beijing, but the postponement was for the good, since it is nicer to visit Tiananmen Square than Palestinian squares and to receive impressions of Chinese culture rather than of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the imprisoned Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader.

The defense ties between China and Israel, which began when 'Ezer Weizman was defense minister, have become public in recent years and reached their peak with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Beijing last October. The chief of staff's visit is a natural continuation of these ties, but the Chinese aspect of Israel's foreign policy also contains problems for Israel's relations with Washington.

The Clinton administration last month recanted its moral sanctimoniousness and switched from human rights slogans to strategic requirements, but the Americans expect Israel to show supersentivity over China's expansionist aspirations in Southeast Asia, and especially its naval expansion in that region. Although the chief of staff did not go to China to plan a pincer movement to encircle any state along the way, Israel has an indirect interest in the strengthening of China militarily. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] hopes to stun its enemies in future wars with homemade surprises. The local industries will be capable of funding the development and production of these surprises if they find foreign customers for their other products. These customers are now being located more and more in Asia—and China can be a major customer when the slow budgetary decisionmaking processes are completed and the sensitive fabric of ties between the Communist Party and the Army, which is supposed to heed its orders, is stabilized following a period of uncertainty during the succession of Deng Xiaoping.

The Americans, which provide the IDF with backing in equipment, technology, and funds, are not interested in a too strong China with intervention forces outside its borders. Channels of dialogue with China's top military are necessary, in their view, but they are uncomfortable about too close ties with the echelon of "scientific, technological, and industrial" commanders and leaders, which is responsible for defense procurement.

U.S. anger about Israel's alleged transfer of Patriot missile secrets to China—although never proven, but also not dismissed—has declined, but we should not be too surprised if in the Clinton administration, which is vital to Israel in its supreme aim of defense and peace arrangements, someone will come forward to urge the defense establishment to make sure there is a smaller dose of ties with its counterparts in Beijing.

IDF 'Completely Rejects' Amnesty Torture Charges

TA0707062394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Amnesty International makes public its annual report today. It deals with human rights abuses in 151 different countries during the period of January to December 1993. Dick Winter has been studying the chapter entitled "Israel and the Occupied Territories" and files this report:

[Begin Winter recording] As in previous years, the Amnesty report makes serious charges against the State of Israel and its security forces. Here are some excerpts. Quote: Palestinians jailed by Israel have been systematically tortured or ill-treated by security forces during interrogation. Three died while in custody in cases in which medical negligence may have been a contributory factor. About 150 Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli forces, some of them in circumstances suggesting extrajudicial executions or other unjustifiable killings, unquote. And again, quote: Common methods of Israeli torture or ill treatment include beatings, hooding with dirty sacks, sleep deprivation, solitary confinement including inside closet-sized dark cells, and prolonged shackling to small chairs, unquote.

But in contrast with previous years, Amnesty seems to have attempted to balance its report. Quote: Palestinian armed groups committed grave human rights abuses, including torture and deliberate and arbitrary killings. Some 35 Israeli civilians and 25 members of the security forces were deliberately killed in attacks and members of various groups also killed over 100 Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel or merely for their political beliefs.

Other noteworthy excerpts in the report include references to Mordekhay Vanunu, as well as to John Ivan Demjanjuk, who the report cites positively as the only prisoner in Israel who faced a death sentence last year but was set free.

As to the reliability of the report, we got a surprise when turning to Amnesty's local branch in Israel. Its representatives are not only forbidden to comment on the report, but they had no part whatsoever in its compilation. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has responded to the charges made in the Amnesty report. Here are several excerpts from the statement put out by the IDF spokesman: The IDF completely rejects the assertions that investigators in Army facilities torture suspects as a means of coercing confessions. All types of torture or use of violence are against the law. The Amnesty International report ignores the situation on the ground, in which terrorists armed with lethal weapons are engaged in carrying out violent attacks. IDF activities are directed against terrorists in order to prevent and foil terrorist attacks aimed at innocent civilians, Palestinian

and Israeli alike. The IDF views human life as being a supreme value and expresses deep sorrow at the loss of life. This is a statement by the IDF spokesman.

Sarid: Dimona Reactor One of Safest in World

TA0707105194 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Jul 94 p 8

[Report by Betzal'el 'Amiqam]

[Text] "The Dimona reactor is no cause for concern; it definitely poses no danger to its staff and, even more so, to its permanent or transitory neighbors," Environment Minister Yosi Sarid announced yesterday from the Knesset podium.

According to Sarid, the Dimona reactor is one of the safest in the world. Its upkeep is in accordance with the strictest international standards, and no reactor in the world is more professionally maintained. Sarid stressed that not once in the reactor's history did it cause environmental pollution. As for the accident in which human lives were lost 28 years ago, Minister Sarid noted that the case in question was an industrial accident. The ensuing radioactive pollution gathered only in the inner spaces of the condenser, and that, too, was cleaned out completely. Radioactivity cannot be concealed, and it does not exist, Sarid added.

The environment minister reiterated information already published that the rate of cancer victims among the reactor personnel is not above the national average, and no difference has been found between the incidence of the disease among workers in units dealing with radiation and those working in other units, such as administration and housekeeping.

Treasury Forecasts Slowed Growth Rate for 1995

TA0607161594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jul 94 p C1

[Report by Judy Maltz]

[Text] The Treasury believes that the growth rate will slow down in 1995 to 5 percent compared to the current 6 to 7 percent annual rate. One of the main factors is the stock market crisis, which will probably lead to a drop in private consumption. Another reason is the recent changes in the Labor force. The drop in the rate of unemployment is expected to lead to a shortage of workers in various sectors in the coming year, which will generate pressure for wage increases, which in turn will harm business profitability.

These evaluations will be presented to the cabinet next Sunday [10 July] when it discusses macroeconomic evaluations for 1995. This will be the first in a series of deliberations on the 1995 state budget, to be completed in late August.

Based on these forecasts, the GNP will grow 5 percent and the industrial product will be 5.2 percent in 1995, compared to an anticipated 6 percent rise in the GNP and 7.4 percent growth in the industrial product in 1994.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 6 July adds that the Treasury forecasts "an 11 percent inflation rate, compared to 8 percent it had previously forecast, according to working papers it distributed today to cabinet ministers prior to Sunday's discussions. The Treasury also forecasts an 8 percent devaluation of the shekel."]

In their survey for the cabinet, the Finance Ministry will stress that the change in the growth trend indicates that the economy is coming close to full employment, a situation which calls for maintaining a small budget deficit and canceling the various subsidies to the business sector aimed at encouraging employment. The anticipated rise in real wages as a result of the drop in unemployment, the officials will stress, will call for higher productivity.

Simultaneously, the Treasury will suggest lowering the tax burden in order to maintain profitibilty levels in the business sector. The ministers will be told that the main impact of the stock market crisis in 1995 will be on luxury consumption, especially products with a high import component.

According to the forecasts, exports will continue to grow in the coming years at a faster pace than imports. Part of the growth is explained by the ongoing process of capturing new markets in Asia and East Europe, and partly by the anticipation of economic recovery in Europe and increased consumption there. As for 1994, they will say that the stock market crisis has not yet found expression in the main economic indicators and that the economy will meet the growth targets set in the budget. It will also be noted that the impact of the closure on the territories on growth has been curbed and that the GNP has virtually not been affected since the various sectors adapted themselves a year ago to a reduction in labor from the territories.

King Returns From Egypt, Terms Visit 'Successful'

JN0607172294 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn returned to the homeland today following a short working visit to Egypt, during which he held talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and senior officials. The talks dealt with the latest developments in the region and relations between the two fraternal countries. [passage omitted] On the results of the visit, His Majesty King Husayn told our political affairs correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Your Majesty, did your visit to Egypt achieve the desired results?

[Husayn] Praise be to God, the visit was good and very successful. It gave us the chance to exchange views on all the developments at this delicate stage. The results were very satisfactory, praise be to God.

[Correspondent] Have you discussed the Yemeni crisis, especially since it appears to be proceeding toward a settlement?

[Husayn] This issue was also discussed, as well as all issues of interest.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, in light of the latest developments on the Jordanian and Palestinian tracks, some believe that there is a need for coordination at this stage, particularly in the economic field. What do you think sir?

[Husayn] Coordination between who and who?

[Correspondent] Between Jordan and the PLO.

[Husayn] This is what we began with. You may recall that there is a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement which [words indistinct], and there is also a Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Therefore, the entire issue will be reexamined soon, God willing. There must be cooperation and integration.

[Correspondent] Is there a need for a summit meeting with the PLO?

[Husayn] They are welcome at any time. They are here in their country, their second homeland. Whenever they deem it appropriate to discuss any issue, we will welcome them and meet with them. We will help them as much as we can, as I said more than once, regarding any new issue or all issues, one after another.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, does your visit to Egypt mark the beginning of a Jordanian political move on a large-scale Arab level to clarify the Jordanian position?

[Husayn] The visit was a response to an invitation from the [Egyptian] president. I was invited to visit fraternal Egypt on my way back [from a visit to the United States]. I preferred to first return here and then make this visit. This is what I have actually done. Praise be to God, the results were good and the talks were frank on all the issues we have discussed. [end recording]

Reviews Topics of Discussion

JN0707085694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7-8 Jul 94 pp 1, 7

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn said Wednesday [6 July] Jordan and Syria did not have any problems over the Kingdom's progress in peace talks with Israel and that the Syrian leadership was aware of Jordan's moves.

The King's comment came against a backdrop of media suggestions that Damascus-Amman relations were "strained" as a result of the recent Jordanian-Israeli agreement to engage in substantive negotiations on key issues such as border demarcation and water rights.

"I don't think there is any problem whatsoever," said the King. "I haven't heard anything to the contrary from my brother the president (Hafiz al-Asad) of Syria," the King told reporters.

"As far as the peace process is concerned, there is a commitment by Syria and by all of us to approach the subject seriously and to hopefully arrive at a comprehensive peace," the King said. "I believe they are aware of everything they have been doing and I do not think there is any reason to consider that there is a problem or crisis." [sentence as published]

King Husayn, in comments in Alexandria where he held talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak during a brief visit he paid on Wednesday and to Jordan Television upon his return home, also affirmed the seriousness of the Jordanian-Israeli talks scheduled to begin in the third week of July.

(Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said Wednesday that the talks were scheduled to begin near the border on June 18. Jordanian sources confirmed that the negotiations would start around that date).

"We are on the verge of conducting serious negotiations on the ground between the two concerned parties (Jordan and Israel) sometime this month, and we hope we will cover all the subjects ratified in Washington," the King told a joint news conference in Alexandria with President Mubarak.

In Amman, the King told Jordan Television that his talks with the Egyptian leader dealt with bilateral relations, the civil war in Yemen and other regional issues.

The visit provided a "good chance for an exchange of views concerning fresh developments at critical stage," said the King of his third meeting with President Mubarak since the end of the Gulf war.

He said he had "frank discussions" with Mr. Mubarak on the two-month-old civil war in Yemen and related issues as well as other topics of mutual concern.

Answering questions, the King emphasised the need for Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation and coordination and reiterated Jordan's willingness to extend all assistance to the Palestinians.

"We welcome the Palestinians leaders to Amman at any time, and we are open to discuss any subject of mutual concern, and we will provide assistance to the Palestinians whenever we can and try to settle any problem that could surface during the meetings," the King said.

Asked what was the status of economic cooperation between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the King said: "We have already started steps in this regard on the basis of an agreement reached by the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee."

The reference was to an accord worked out in ay between Jordanian and PLO officials on the modalities of implementing a Jan. 7 economic cooperation agreement signed by the two sides.

However, that accord has not been ratified by the PLO leadership, which signed an agreement on economic ties with Israel in April. That document is seen to have limited Palestinian options of dealing with Jordan in economic affairs.

"There is no question about the need for further meetings to discuss the whole situation and review various issues, sicne we believe that there must be cooperation and coordination between the two sides," the King said.

In his comment in Alexandria, the King described Egyptian-Jordanian relations as excellent.

"I am grateful to the president for giving me this opportunity to visit him and to discuss everything as we always do in complete candour and frankness," he said.

King Husayn said Jordanian-Israeli negotiations would be devoted to "problems linked to Jordanian sovereignty over territory, waters and all the other subjects laid down in the agenda" adopted in the United States in September last year.

He voiced his "hope that progress will be made in the other tracks of negotiations," especially in Israel's negotiations with Syria and Lebanon.

King Husayn denied any tension between Amman and Damascus, saying "there is nothing to prevent keeping in touch, and I don't think there is any problem.

"Now we are looking after our responsibilities towards our people and towards our country," he said.

President Mubarak said he had not been given a message from President al-Asad to pass on to King Husayn, when he met Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi Wednesday morning.

"There is no need to have mediation betwen Arab parties," Mr. Mubarak said.

In reply to a question on Jordanian-Syrian coordination, the King said:

"When the opportunity arises we will do whatever we can. Ours is an open book and there is nothing that we like to elaborte on except to suggest that we all started at the same moment and we are committed to the establishment of a just and durable peace in our region, a comprehensive peace if possible, and now we are looking after our own responsibilities towards our people and towards our country in this equation."

Asked if there were steps to be expected on the Jordanian-Israeli track similar to the Palestinian-Israeli track, the King said the issue was different.

Regarding the Palestinian track, he said, "we hope that our brethern unify their ranks on the Palestinian arena and to progress and that all their efforts end in success..."

Mr. Mubarak, who has called for progress in Israeli-Syrian talks that have been stalled over Israel's withdrawal from te Golan Heights, said the arrival of Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat in the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho at the beginning of this month would smooth the way for other peace efforts.

"On the Syrian line I think the process is continuing. We expect problems will arise every now and then on all tracks... now that 'Arafat has arrived in his place and the wheel of the Palestinian problem started to move I think the other problems will be solved," Mr. Mubarak said.

King Husayn was accompanied on the trip to Alexandria by Prime Minister 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zayd Ben Shakir and the King's political advisor Marwan al-Qasim.

"Egypt has a very important and effective role in the peace process and has good relations with Israel," said an unidentified Jordanian official in Amman quoted by REUTERS.

"Therefore, it is very important for Jordan at this stage in its quest for peace to deepen coordination with Egypt and benefit from its past experience," he told REUTERs.

King Husayn, in recent public statements, praised Egypt and insisted he will go all the way towards peace.

"We are facing a battle for peace. We hope we will succeed and give good results especially that our brethren went on the same path (towards peace)," the King said after returning to Amman on Saturday from talks in Washington and a private visit to London.

"Egypt was in the forefront... then came our beloved brethren in Palestine. Now it is high time for us to take care of the affairs of our homeland to enable it to stand firm in the face of the challenges."

Paper Examines Husayn-Mubarak Talks

JN0707101094 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
7 Jul 94 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "The Jordanian-Egyptian Summit"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Cairo comes at the time when there is a growing need for continued contacts and consultations among Arab leaders and officials. This need is dictated by developments in the Arab political scene, particularly developments on all tracks of the peace process.

Clearly, tangible developments either have taken place or are about to take place. These include those related to the approach of negotiations on the delineation of Jordanian borders with Israel, the start of the Palestinian national authority's work, and the forthcoming arrival of the U.S. secretary of state to activate negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

It was only natural for the Jordanian-Egyptian summit to discuss these developments, as well as the regrettable events in Yemen. It is well known that the Jordanian and Egyptian policies, established by His Majesty King Husayn and President Husni Mubarak, champion a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Egyptian and Jordanian viewpoints in this regard are identical. They both want to see a just and comprehensive peace that considers the interests of all Arab parties, as well as the national and sovereign rights of all parties. They stress the need to develop and strengthen inter-Arab affairs at this stage and in the stage of the pledged peace. In this regard, the statement made by Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Amr Musa some two weeks ago is worth mentioning. In that statement, Musa stressed that the Egyptian-Jordanian relations will see further progress in the near future. This statement agrees with the Jordanian convictions in this regard.

Regarding the bloody events in fraternal Yemen, Jordan and Egypt have each adopted a policy based on respect for the Yemeni people's choices and constitutional institutions and the need to resolve the internal problems through dialogue. Both countries exerted persistent mediation efforts and both Amman and Cairo were centers for intensive contacts and consultations during all stages of the Yemeni crisis.

Bilateral ties also saw a positive, important qualitative step in May with the visit by Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi leading a high-level official delegation to Amman, where the higher Egyptian- Jordanian committee convened. The visit indeed brought additional progress to the march of strong relations between the two fraternal countries.

In light of these important developments, the Egyptian-Jordanian summit in Alexandria crowns this growing development and strengthens the deep confidence between the two countries; an unshakeable confidence that is expected to see more continuity and strength.

While we feel satisfied with meetings at the highest level, such as the Alexandria meeting, we are confident that this meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and his brother President Mubarak will reflect positively, not only on bilateral ties, but also on all Arab relations.

Source Denies Liaison Committee To Meet 'Next Week'

JN0507100894 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
5 Jul 94 p 32

[By Nabil Ghazzawi]

[Excerpt] The [Jordanian] Foreign Ministry has denied any knowledge about an Israeli television report that the first meeting of the four-way liaison and cooperation committee will meet in the Egyptian capital next week. The commitee comprises Jordan, Egypt, Israel, and the Palestinians.

Ahmad al-Mubayyidin, director of the Foreign Ministry Information Department, said this in reply to a question by AL-DUSTUR on an Israeli television report that was also carried by news agencies that this committee will hold its first meeting in Cairo.

Al-Mubayyidin said the Foreign Ministry has no knowledge about such a meeting, and the parties concerned in the Ministry have not been informed that such a meeting will be held in the Egyptian capital. [passage omitted]

17 Parties Agree on Program To End Iraqi Embargo

JN0707065094 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
6 Jul 94 pp 25, 28

[Text] Seventeen Jordanian parties have agreed on a working program to lift the embargo on Iraq. This includes organizing a week of solidarity with the fraternal Iraqi people. The program was announced during a news conference by Deputy Hamzah Mansur on behalf of the party follow-up committee. The program also includes a photo exhibition and the announcement of a new campaign to donate food, medicine, and children's milk and to treat Iraqi children and handicapped patients.

The program stressed that parliament should cooperate by issuing the necessary statements that express its stand on the embargo and by sending parliamentary delegations to win support for lifting the embargo of the Iraqi people. The program stressed the sending memorandums to the Arab Parliamentary Union, the Interparliamentary Union, and regional parliaments such as the European Parliament and parliamentary blocs within it, the African Parliaments Union, and the Latin American parliaments that explain the dimensions of the embargo.

The program also includes sending memorandums to the Arab League and Arab countries and demanding that they live up to their responsibilities in terms of lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq. It also includes sending a

memorandum to the Islamic Conference Organization and the governments of the Islamic world demanding that they prepare programs to act on this issue, especially between 10 and 15 July, when the international resolutions on Iraq will be reviewed.

The program also includes sending memorandums to the UN Security Council members to take more decisive positions to lift the embargo and implement Article 22 of UN Security Council Resolution 687 and to prevent adding new conditions. The program will be sent to the UN secretary general and concerned international human rights organizations so they can live up to their responsibilities for the suffering of the people of Iraq. Memorandums will also be sent to the heads of Christian organizations throughout the world.

The program was signed by the Islamic Action Front, the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the National Action Front, al-Mustaqbal Party, the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Party, the Democratic Arab Unionist Party, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, the Democratic Arab Unionist Party, the Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party, in addition to the National Front which includes the Progress and Justice Party, the Jordanian National Alliance Party, al-Yaqazah, and al-Watan. The program was also signed by al-Hurriyah Party, al-Mustaqbal, and al-Jamahir Party. Thus, 17 Jordanian parties signed the program

'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, head of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, at the conclusion of his visit to Jordan at the invitation of the Jordanian parties, praised the official and popular Jordanian stand and the results of his eight-day visit.

IAF Leader on Country's Stand on Peace, Yemen

JN0607160994 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 6 Jul 94 p 5

[Interview with Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan, secretary general of the Islamic Action Front, by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Khatib; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Khatib] The political peace developments are accelerating and the Jordanian-Israeli talks will begin in al-'Aqabah or Elat next month [July]. In your capacity as the largest opposition party, having the largest parliamentary representation, what will you do vis-a-vis this development?

[Al-Farhan] In principle, we are against the peace process, which we believe has taken the nation into dark tunnel. As we oppose this process in principle, we will also reject all that is produced by it. Therefore, we will resist and obstruct these results as much as we can. I would like here to note that the opposition is necessary, logical, and sound, because many of our people reject these talks. I would like also to warn against "any fabricated march" in support of the talks, particularly in the wake of the "leaflets" which are being distributed by some "hypocrites" who are trying to show that the entire "people" are with the negotiations. Such "supportive marches" are considered a provocation of the feelings of the Jordanian people which will result in internal seditions whose consequences only God knows.

[Al-Khatib] Will your rejection be confined to issuing political statements to the people, or will there be tangible steps, particularly since you are the party which has the largest representation in Parliament?

[Al-Farhan] From the beginning, we did not give our vote of confidence to the government and its policy statement. We did not succeed in rallying more than 10 deputies to our side. Now that the government has been reshuffled, we ask it to present its policy statement to the House of Representatives in an extraordinary session so that we, as well as the others, can express a clear stand vis-a-vis what is taking place.

[Al-Khatib] Can you, as a party rejecting the principle of negotiations, stop the wheels of negotiations?

[Al-Farhan] The future will decide this and evaluate the efforts that were made and which will be made. There are always surprises in political action. We regret that a large number of parties do not reject the principle of negotiations, particularly the left-wing parties. These parties only call for improving the conditions of the talks.

[Al-Khatib] If Jordan and Israel reach a political solution, will you describe this as separate solution?

[Al-Farhan] Regardless of the terms used, we do not approve of the acceleration taking place on the Jordanian track. There is a need for large-scale Arab coordination so that Israel will not deal separately with the Arab states one after the other, as it did with Egypt, and then with the PLO. [passage omitted]

[Al-Khatib] Regarding the Yemeni crisis, why do you support the North against the South in the ongoing Yemeni war?

[Al-Farhan] The way your question is phrased makes it look as if the war is between the North and South. Our understanding is that this war is between those who seek unity against those who seek secession. The war is not between North and South, because those who are fighting are neither northerners nor southerners. The fighting is between the various Yemeni parties, which support legitimacy, constitutionalism, and the strategic option of unity, on one hand, against a part of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]—not all the YSP but those who call for separation— on the other. Therefore, we do not support the North against the South. [passage omitted]

[Al-Khatib] It has been said that Muslim Brotherhood members are fighting on the side of the North?

[Al-Farhan] We are a political party which has no armed force. We do not believe in violence or use of force to achieve our objectives. We believe in political dialogue

and reason and call on the nation to return to its roots and identity. What contradicts with this is completely rejected. [passage omitted]

Prince Underscores Right to Exploit al-Yarmuk Waters

JN0607113994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan this morning made a field tour that took him to several units and formations of the 12th Royal Mechanized Division. His royal highness was welcomed upon arrival by the division commander, and several senior officers of the division.

At the outset of his field tour, his royal highness visited an army unit at its training site. He watched several training and administrative activities there.

His royal highness also called on an artillery unit of the division, where he was briefed on the duties and training activities of this unit. He continued his field tour by visiting the forward surveillance units along the front of the division, where he was reassured about their administrative state of affairs, and relayed to them the greetings of his majesty the king, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, as well as the immense pride he takes in them.

His royal highness also toured the al-Yarmuk River and the Maqarin area. He emphasized the need to take an interest in the area in terms of agriculture. He also emphasized the importance of promoting agriculture there by taking advantage of available water resources, and using them to reclaim land and build step terraces on slopes. He added: Here, permit me to reiterate that our observations are clear. We should take advantage of water up to the other side of the river. Our citizens have an unmistakable desire to utilize the available agricultural opportunities. We also have an unmistakable desire to build canal systems on the river to enable citizens to have access to their territory, to the edges of this territory.

At the end of the visit, his highness met with the division's senior officers. He thanked them for the great efforts they are making to perform their duties. He also commended the qualitative leap they have achieved in terms of technical proficiency, administrative skills, and super professionalism.

His royal highness also addressed the issue of sovereignty on Jordanian territory and waters, saying: It goes without saying that when we address the issue of sovereignty on our territories, we address our desire to implement independent and sovereign decisions on our territories and water resources. It is unreasonable for one to say that water issues can be settled in isolation from neighbors. It is impossible for one to address border issues without the involvement of those surrounding him. But for people to exercise their right to sovereignty on their territory is something that has already been done by the countries of the region, perhaps without exception. What I would like to say is that our steadfastness on our territories, our defense of our rights, and the activation of our establishments, particularly the military establishment, the most important establishment, is a sovereign right that we must safeguard against any external interferences, God forbid. It must be protected from any tampering. It must be protected from any feelings of envy at this delicate period in our life. It is my hope that this occasion, on which you have made your own remarks regarding the exercise of your management and your command of new generations serving in the Armed Forces, will serve as a call for professionalism in the full sense of the word. This is because if God ordains that we shoulder responsibility in the next decade together, with the blessings of the supreme commander and under his leadership, we must envisage the great transformation ahead of us in terms of the qualitative and, maybe, quantitative restructuring of the Armed Forces. It goes without saying that some of the equipment we are using at present is characterized by some special technical traits. Additionally, there is an unmistakable desire to evaluate and modernize other equipment that we are using. Nonetheless, this requires a drastic outlook envisaging change. As a matter of fact, this has been taken into account in the context of the future planning outlook. But, the professionalism of soldiers and junior commanders in formations is basic and necessary. This is because the cornerstones are the small units operating on the ground.

His royal highness added: I would like to say that our battle at present and in the future is nurtured by our honorable past legacy, which is grounded in adherence to clear constants. This legacy has been built by our previous conduct, which has been marked by integrity and fairness, particularly in the ranks of the Armed Forces. The will for change will safeguard our Constitution. Similarly, our freedom will protect our territory.

His royal highness was accompanied on this tour by the chief of staff and staff officers of the Royal Ground Forces.

Al-'Anani: Lloyds Register Team To Begin Work 'Soon'

JN0407091394 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Jul 94 pp 1, 25

[Text] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of information, has said that a team from Lloyds Register will soon begin work at the Port of al-'Aqabah after the signing of an agreement between the Jordanian Government and the Register.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, al-'Anani added: We both had differences over the word "inspection," which we replaced with the words "check and examination." Of course, official documentation on the goods arriving at the Port of al-'Aqabah will be checked.

Lloyds Register was delegated by the United Nations to monitor goods coming into the Port of al-'Aqabah in implementation of the embargo imposed on Iraq. Lloyds Register will carry out its work according to a request by Jordan, which rejects the naval inspections conducted by warships belonging to the U.S.-led alliance forces.

Further on Expected Agreement With Lloyds

JN0607091694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Jul 94, p 3

[By P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Inspections of all incoming and outgoing ships continue at the Tiran Straits at the mouth of al-'Aqabah as Jordan is edging towards an agreement to replace the sea-based interceptions with a land-based regime to enforce the international sanctions against Iraq, reliable sources said Tuesday [5 July].

The sources declined to be specific on the interceptions, but voiced optimism that Jordan and the Lloyds Register would sign an agreement in "one or two weeks" on having Lloyds surveyors set up a presence at al-'Aqabah to observe incoming and outgoing cargo at the port.

"There is a misconception among many that there are no longer any inspections," said one source. "The Americans will not lift the siege of al-'Aqabah until the moment Lloyds Register people are in place at al-'Aqabah. In the meantime, the inspections are continuing."

The source declined comment when asked whether any ships were diverted after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced in London three months ago that Washington was accepting the Jordanian proposal to have a Lloyds Register presence to observe cargo coming into and going out of al-'Aqabah

"The actual stationing of the surveyors would take two to three weeks from the actual signing of the agreement," said another source, adding that "some minor points remained to be sorted out" between the government and the London-based Lloyds Register.

According to the sources, who preferred anonymity, these points could be clarified this week, paving the way for the signing of the accord. The date and venue for the signing have not been finalised, the source added.

The Ports Corporation will sign the agreement on behalf of the Jordanian government.

Under the arrangement, consignees will pay for the cost of the Lloyds presence at al-'Aqabah on the basis of a tariff schedule prepared by the Ports Corporation, said the source, brushing aside suggestions that $3 million have been set as cost for the first year.

"The actual amount that importers/exporters pay will be marginal when compared with the high freight charges that they used to pay because of the costly delays resulting from the sea-based inspections," said the source.

In the meantime, Lloyds Register has started recruiting and training local support staff for its surveyors to be stationed in al- 'Aqabah, other sources said without providing specific details.

The interceptions of all cargo vessels headed for and leaving the port of al-'Aqabah by American warships have been a major point of friction between Jordan and the United States, the most ardent advocate of enforcing the sanctions imposed against Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

It took Jordan more than three years of repeated complaints coupled with international lobbying before the U.S. accepted in principle the concept of a neutral international agency like Lloyds Register to observe the Kingdom's adherence to the sanctions.

Officials say the interceptions cost Jordan more than $1.2 billion in extra freight costs alone during this period, not to mention the diminished number of international shipping lines willing to send their vessels to al-'Aqabah.

The officials affirm that the proposed Lloyds Register presence at al-'Aqabah would in no way infringe upon Jordan's sovereign rights and that the surveyors would only work with Ports Corporation and customs officials to ensure that all incoming and outgoing cargo comply with their shipping manifests.

Goods destined for Iraq would be treated separately in line with the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions and would not be allowed to leave the quayside until all conditions laid down by the U.N. are satisfied.

Hizballah Mouthpiece Accuses U.S. of 'Interference'

NC0707110494 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 24 Jun 94 p 11

[Commentary by H. 'Abdallah: "The Hegemony of the Ambassador"]

[Text] Like his predecessors, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Mark Hambley is imposing his hegemony on the entire Lebanese situation at a time when Israel is violating the entire sovereignty of Lebanon. The ambassador talks to everyone about Lebanon's future and the reconstruction process. He also discusses what will happen internally as if he is the absolute ruler in Lebanon. Despite all this, Washington says "it does not interfere in domestic affairs." This is the secret word that all Lebanese must understand.

According to the U.S. argument, any Arab or Islamic state that champions the legitimacy of the Resistance is interfering in Lebanese domestic affairs. Anyone who supports the Resistance politically is interfering in Middle East affairs to gain a new card and anyone who supports the Resistance materially is a terrorist.

Any state that supports the resistance will be included in the list of terrorist states, foremost among which is Iran. U.S. criminal hands continue to pursue Iran even inside the Imam Reza Shrine in Mashhad. Washington continues to pressure Syria and anyone who lets himself get lured into opposing U.S. policy.

According to the U.S. logic, Washington is pursuing its sovereignty over the world. Washington is dismembering Africa, seizing Arab oil, and besieging the Muslims. Washington is cutting off Yemen, leaving the Iraqi people to suffer hunger and poverty, tightening the noose around the region, and is rebuking anyone who tries to speak about freedom.

Washington's secretary of state brought an Israeli plan to Damascus. The plan simply "calls for keeping Hizballah's radical members away from the area under Damascus' control" as if Lebanon's land belongs to Israel and America and Hizballah has occupied the land and must leave it.

The U.S. ambassador to Lebanon was frank in saying: We are closely following up the activities of every movement and force that could harm the peace process; he meant the Islamic movements. During his weekly "private meeting" with journalists, the ambassador said the government of Rafiq al-Hariri will remain for some time depending on regional developments, which he did not reveal.

So the U.S. ambassador is watching the activities of the opponents of U.S. policy in Lebanon. Perhaps time is not yet ripe for the ambassador to pursue them. But the internal Lebanese situation and government depend on Washington's stances and regional developments. We ask: Who shapes these developments? Is it not the United States, which has been shaking the region's tree since the Gulf war and has been picking up both its ripe and unripe fruit?

But what can the Lebanese do, particularly those who placed their fate and that of their country at the disposal of Hambley and others? Is there anyone with a sense of patriotism to confront this blatant interference in domestic affairs? Or will the same ambivalent policy continue, because the one who has nothing can offer nothing?

IDF Reports Officer Killed in Attack

TA0707044394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Lieutenant Yehuda Udi Elgrabli, a 22-year-old IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer from Jerusalem, was killed yesterday by terrorist fire in south Lebanon and will be buried this afternoon at 1800 at the military cemetery on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem.

An IDF spokesman reported that yesterday afternoon, the terrorists fired antitank missiles and mortar shells at IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] outposts in the area of al-Rayhan in south Lebanon. Lieutenant Yehuda Elgrabli, a paratrooper, was killed in the attack. An SLA soldier was also slightly injured. The IDF and SLA fired back at the sources of fire, and IDF and SLA artillery later shelled terrorist targets for several hours. [passage omitted]

Tension in South, Israeli Shelling Reported

NC0707082394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Tension continues to prevail in the south as a result of an Israeli bombardment of Libbaya, Zillaya, and Qilya at around 0430 today. Some 60 shells landed on these villages.

Enemy artillery intermittently pounded 'Ayn al-Tina and Birkat Jabbur throughout last night [words indistinct].

Al-Asad, Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Meet

JN0407160694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri at 1145 today. Talks dealt with the situation in the region, the peace process, and issues of interest to Syria and Lebanon.

Commentary on Christopher Tour, Israeli Peace Stand

JN0107143794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1136 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The announcement of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's new tour of the Middle East follows many developments in the wake of the U.S. secretary of state's previous tour. The most important of these developments are Israel's recent threats, and the continuation and escalation of intensified daily Israeli aggressions against Lebanon with all weapons and means, various forms of aggressive military quarrelsomeness, and kidnapping, shelling, killing, and destruction.

Although Secretary Christopher said he will not carry new proposals, he did say this visit is part of President Clinton administration's objective of guaranteeing a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The immediate question in light of all these developments and the U.S. emphasis on comprehensive peace is how Israel will deal with the new mission of the U.S. secretary. How far it will go in responding to the peace efforts? Israel has been obstructing peace for more than two and one-half years by refusing to discuss the issue of a comprehensive withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the other occupied Arab territories, and by its continuous attempts to forge facts, escalate tension in the region, force Washington to relinquish the peace process, disavow its commitments and obligations, abort its land-for-peace initiative, and compel U.S. diplomacy to avoid doing anything or playing any role that does not adopt the Israeli concept of peace or that does not bestow legitimacy on Israel's usurpation of Arab rights and territories.

It is clear that Israeli efforts are aimed in this direction. Recent Israeli threats are a clear example of this. Upon the initial reports about the U.S. secretary's tour, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin made threats of war. He executed the threat on the ground in Lebanon in an attempt to pressure it and to achieve another breakthrough on its track.

It is clear that by their threats and their new actions, Israeli officials seek to increase pressure on Syria and to force it to relinquish its rights, and to confine the U.S. secretary of state's tour to the Israeli concept of peace, namely, Israel's acquisition of land and peace together, and consequently, to foil the U.S. secretary's tour before it begins.

Although there is no need to reiterate that the Israeli threats will not intimidate Syria, affect its position, or force it to relinquish its rights, we, today, after the announcement of the U.S. secretary's new tour, stress that the only kind of peace Syria can accept is a just and comprehensive peace in harmony with international legitimacy and its resolutions on the region.

There will be a just peace or there will be no peace. Withdrawal from all Golan, from all southern Lebanon, and from all other occupied Arab territories is the basis of and the condition for peace. There will be no peace without this. We are not exaggerating when we say the whole world has approved this principle, otherwise, the Madrid conference would not have been held, and the peace process would not have been launched.

The UN Security Council resolutions, which were adopted by the U.S. initiative as a basis for the peace process, call for Israel's full withdrawal. Syria has always stressed its commitment to the UN Security Council resolutions and its readiness to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on these principles. Syria's position is in harmony with UN Security Council resolutions and the essence of the U.S. initiative. However, the Israeli stand is an insurmountable obstacle to the achievement of peace due to its contradiction of the resolutions and principles of international legitimacy. Based on this, Israel is called upon to deal with the peace talks seriously, not by forging facts.

Syria went to Madrid as a result of a true and certain desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. Syria also responded positively to the U.S. initiative out of its faith in peace and its sacredness, and in compliance with the wish of the international community and the peace sponsors. Syria has not asked the peace process cosponsors for anything other than the implementation of international law and UN Security Council resolutions, and translating the land-for-peace formula into concrete reality. Without Israel's implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, it will continue to threaten the peace process. The peace process cosponsors should assume the responsibility of straightening things out.

Ba'th Party Official Regrets Fighting in Yemen

JN0607201894 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Comrades 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq Ayyub, member of the Ba'th Party regional command and head of the education and vanguards regional offices, this evening met with members

of the Martyr Comrade Staff Major Engineer Paratrooper Basil al-Asad University Military Training Camp in al-Dimas in Damascus. [passage omitted]

Comrade al-Ahmar addressed those taking part in the university military training course. He conveyed to them the greetings of struggling comrade President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the greetings of the Party's command. He noted the concern of both the leader and the Ba'th Party for the sector of students who represent the present and future generations, and on whom hopes are pinned for continuing the march of construction which Syria is witnessing, and for following up the comprehensive economic and social growth, and the important achievements and big changes that have taken place on the road toward achieving our pan-Arab objectives. This is in addition to continuing the march of building a new society which achieves pride, dignity, justice, and equality for its citizens. [passage omitted]

Comrade al-Ahmar then spoke about national unity in Syria and the domestic front's rallying around the leadership of struggling comrade Hafiz al-Asad. The Ba'th Party assistant secretary general also presented a comprehensive review of the latest developments in the region. He focused on developments in the peace process, emphasizing Syria's constants when dealing with these developments. He referred to Israeli obstacles to the peace process aimed at aborting it and preventing it from achieving its goals of realizing a just and comprehensive peace based on UN resolutions and international legitimacy, especially Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 which stipulate Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinians Arab people's legitimate rights.

Comrade al-Ahmar noted the developments in the Yemeni arena, expressing his regret over the ongoing fighting. He referred to comrade President Hafiz al-Asad's appeals to the Yemeni brothers to stop fighting and resort to dialogue to solve Yemen's problems in order to maintain the unity of the country and cohesion of the people to enable it to overcome the crisis which has exhausted the Yemeni people and wasted their capabilities. He said that the political solution is the way to overcome this crisis.

Al-Ahmar focused on the importance of Arab solidarity and the united Arab stand to confront the challenges facing the Arab nation in light of the current international circumstances. He also said that Syria has become a pioneer within the framework of the peoples' struggle to achieve a new world order based on true democracy, total equality in international relations, and mutual respect for free choices in development and progress.

Comrade al-Ahmar concluded the meeting by stressing the directives of the Ba'th Party's command in terms of doubling efforts to achieve a good education and to undertake training courses that will enable future generations to play an effective role in building the homeland, liberating the occupied Arab land, returning the usurped Arab rights and achieving our Arab nation's pan-Arab objectives.

Al-Shar' Returns From Conference in Kuwait

JN0607205394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this evening from Kuwait, where he and foreign ministers of the states of the Damascus Declaration held talks 6-7 July. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Islamic Organization, Hekmatyar Envoys Meet

LD0507114194 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Peshawar, July 5, IRNA—The representatives of Afghan Supreme Coordination Council led by Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar met OIC [Islamic Conference Organization] Secretary General Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid and called for the formation of a leadership council that should also have representation of Uzbek leader General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam.

A spokesman of the council told IRNA that it believed ceasefire would be of no use unless a comprehensive solution to the simmering conflict was sorted out. He said Hekmatyar had shown readiness to meet al-Ghabid in his base camp, Charasiab, in the outskirts of Kabul city.

Al-Ghabid also met representatives of Jami'at-e Eslami headed by Borhanoddin Rabbani and discussed the 'draft plan' prepared to settle the Afghan crisis. Jami'at sources told IRNA that their leader too was ready to meet al-Ghabid.

The secretary general, who arrived here on Saturday last, met Afghan leaders in Islamabad and Peshawar and may proceed to Kabul to hold further discussions on his proposed plan.

Meanwhile, severe fighting between rival groups continued in Kabul. Hekmatyar and his allied forces continued their attacks on the positions of Rabbani's forces. Afghan sources said that Hekmatyar forces launched an offensive to get their lost areas back but government forces repulsed it. The worst affected areas of this attack included Bala Hesar, Tapa-ye Maranjan, Chah-e-Kala and Microrayon.

Militia Aircraft Shot Down in Herat Province

LD0607184194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] An aircraft of the Dostam-Golboddin militia was shot down at 1600 today in Herat Province. Quoting a responsible source of the country's armed forces, the BIA correspondent reported that an aircraft of the Dostam-Golboddin militia, while engaged in bombing the residential regions of Herat province [words indistinct] was shot down this afternoon over (Zarpor) region, Herat province, by a chaser plane of the country's air force. [passage indistinct]

India

Police Foil Fundamentalist Terror 'Conspiracy'

BK0607160594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Delhi police have arrested five members of a militant group, Hizbul Mojahedin, and unearthed a conspiracy to spread terrorism in metropolitan cities in the country. According to an official release, fundamentalists who are being trained in arms and explosives in Kashmir were to be used for this purpose. The special cell of the Delhi police says the interrogations revealed that the militants were also given the specific task of eliminating some top political leaders of Jammu and Kashmir. A package of arms, ammunition, and grenades were also sent to these militants by truck bearing Jammu and Kashmir registration number. One foreign pistol with ten live cartridges and a hand grenade were recovered at the instance of the arrested militants. A hunt is on to nab the other absconding associates.

Iran

Yemeni Parliament Delegation Continues Visit

Meets With Majles' Larijani

LD0607100894 Tehran IRNA in English 0921 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA—A Yemeni parliamentarian said that foreign hands within and outside the region were at work to fan the flames of civil war in Yemen so as to weaken and finally partition that country.

'Abd-al-Malik al-Wazir, head of the Yemeni parliament's religious affairs committee, who is leading a parliamentary delegation here, also thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its stance on the crisis in Yemen.

He made the remarks in a meeting with deputy head of the Majles foreign committee Mohammad Javad Larijani here Monday [4 July].

Larijani, saying the Islamic Republic of Iran regretted the bloodshed in Yemen, called for immediate cessation of clashes in that country.

The Iranian official said that it was in the interest of the Islamic Republic that Yemen maintained its unity and strength and played its role among regional countries as an active member.

Larijani said that Iran considered ongoing clashes in Yemen as an internal issue of that country which should end soon in a peaceful manner.

"Yemeni statesmen should solve the issue through dialogue," Larijani said, adding that the Islamic Republic of Iran was against foreign intervention in that country.

He said that regional states along with the United Nations should help in patching up differences between north and south Yemen and alleviating the sufferings of Yemeni people.

Meets With Majles Speaker

LD0607154194 Tehran IRNA in English 1304 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA—Visiting head of the Yemeni Parliament's religious affairs committee 'Abd-al-Malik al-Wazir told Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here Wednesday [6 July] that foreign powers had ignited the fire of the destructive war in Yemen.

Al-Wazir also briefed Nateq-Nuri on the latest developments in his country and thanked the Islamic republic for its position towards the crisis in Yemen.

Nateq-Nuri expressed regret over continuation of the war in Yemen and maintained that certain countries of the region did not like to see a united and strong Yemen in the region and for this reason they were now attempting to partition it.

He expressed hope that the war in Yemen would end by peaceful means as soon as possible.

Azerbaijan's Aliyev in 'Fierce Argument' With Khamene'i

PM0607135094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Azerbaijani President Concludes Visit to Tehran With Fierce Argument With Khamene'i"]

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev has concluded a three-day official visit to Iran after what was described by diplomatic sources as "a fierce argument" with Iranian leader 'Ali Khamene'i.

Aliyev met with Khamene'i in the latter part of his visit to Iran, the first since he became president a year ago.

The "stormy meeting" was attended by senior Azerbaijani and Iranian aides. Some of the proceedings of the meeting leaked out yesterday. Sources say that Khamene'i opened the meeting by saying that the war against Armenia is every Muslim's "sacred duty." Aliyev replied that, despite that, Iran is still Armenia's main supply route in the war that has been raging around the area of Nagorno-Karabakh for the past five years.

The Azerbaijani president also said that the Armenian forces are occupying 25 percent of Azerbaijan's territory, displacing about 1 million Azerbaijanis from their cities and villages. He added: "Despite that, the bridge on the river Aras is still open to buses and trucks around the clock." That bridge links Iran to Armenia, is Armenia's only land route to the outside world, and is used for the importation of necessary goods and equipment, especially fuel. Iran denies that the bridge is used in the transport of arms to Armenia.

According to diplomatic sources, Khamene'i's reply to Aliyev's complaint was to accuse Baku of inviting Russia again to be an imperialist power in the country. Russia has deployed about 35,000 troops on Azerbaijan's borders with Iran, thus reoccupying the positions held by the Red Army before the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Aliyev said at a press conference in Tehran that close relations with Moscow are the cornerstone of his foreign policy.

The Azerbaijani president also said: "We need the presence of Russian forces on our territory for our protection."

During that stormy meeting, Khamene'i also raised the question of diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and Israel but Aliyev said that Azerbaijan is a sovereign state and has a right to establish relations with whomever it likes. He pointed out that even the PLO has recognized the Jewish state.

So far there has been no official comment on the stormy meeting between Khamene'i and his Azerbaijani guest but Tehran's media have attacked what they called "Aliyev's pro-Russia and pro-Israel policies."

Ten million Azerbaijanis are known to be in Iran and 300,000 Azerbaijani refugees live in camps on Iranian territory.

Paper Criticizes 'Arafat's Gaza-Jericho Trip

LD0707091794 Tehran IRNA in English 0724 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA—The morning daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' here Thursday commented on the last week return of Yasir 'Arafat to the Gaza-Jericho mini-state and said that his much publicized return failed to make ripples in Palestinian revolutionary circles.

The daily in its editorial wrote that 'Arafat's return has, on the contrary, strengthened suspicions that Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] was in fact being groomed all these years to serve Israeli interests in Palestine.

If 'Arafat was true to the Palestinian cause, he would never have compromised the liberation of Qods for a tiny and insignificant piece of Palestinian soil.

His return, the editorial continued, has also removed the "last fig leaf from the compomisers, and provided Palestinians both inside and outside the occupied land with fresh impetus to continue the intifada against the Qods-occupying regime."

Agreement With France on Financial Disputes

LD0707103594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Banking authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran and France have reached an agreement on the two countries' financial disputes. According to a Central News Unit report from Paris, following three rounds of talks, officials of the Central Bank of Iran and the French Treasury signed an agreement last night about the financial disputes and outstanding debts.

Announcing the news the spokesman of our country's embassy in Paris stressed: Obstacles in the way of the expansion of commercial and economic ties between Iran and France have been removed.

Two Christian Religious Leaders Murdered

Officials Search for Murderers

LD0607142794 Tehran IRNA in English 1217 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA—Police and security officials trying to find the murderer or murderers of Tatabus Mikhailyan, a Christian priest who had disappeared last week, found the body of Mehdi Dibaj, a Protestant priest, on Tuesday [5 July].

The body of Dibaj was found in a park, west of Tehran, and was later identified by his relatives. Dibaj left his home in Sari, Mazandaran Province 15 days ago and has not been heard of since then.

An Armenian religious official said that in his view, some mysterious hands were at work to sow discord among the followers of divine religions, particularly Islam and Christianity. He expressed hope that investigations launched by the Iranian police and security officials into the murders of the two priests would soon result in arresting those behind the murders.

Girl Arrested for Killings

LD0607160694 Tehran IRNA in English 1443 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA—One of the culprits responsible for the murder of two Christian priests, Tatabus Mikhailyan and Mehdi Dibaj, was arrested Wednesday in the southeastern province of Sistan va Baluchestan province, an informed source said.

The source said that security forces of Zahedan, the capital of Sistan va Baluchestan Province, caught a young girl, identified as Farahnaz Anami, trying to flee the country via Iran's eastern border today.

After initial interrogation, it was known that the young girl had been involved in the murder of the two Christian priests, the source said.

"Valuable documents have been obtained from the detainee which confirm her link with the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) as well as her involvement in the slaying of the two Iranian Christians," a security official at the Information Ministry told IRNA.

The official said further information on the confessions of the arrested terrorist would be released soon.

Dibaj, one of the victims, left his home in the northern city of Sari 15 days ago and a few days later his family notified its disappearance to the police. Mikhailyan, the second victim, had been kidnapped, killed and then put in a freezer in a house in eastern Tehran.

According to the latest reports from security officials, an MKO plot to kidnap a third priest in Esfahan identified as Pelos has been detected and foiled.

Murderer Explains Motives

LD0607222994 Tehran IRNA in English 2019 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Tehran, July 6, IRNA—A group of clergymen and celebrities belonging to Tehran's religious minorities today talked with one of the killers of Tatabus Mikhailyan, the Christian priest who had disappeared last week.

In their talks with Farahnaz Anami, a member of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO), held at Information Ministry's guest house, they heard the details of the murder of the two Christian clergymen and the motives of MKO for committing this crime.

Anami, who was caught today while trying to flee the country via Iran's eastern border in the province of Sistan va Baluchestan, revealed that she and two other MKO members were involved in the murder of Reverend Mikhailyan.

"About two months ago, we were given a mission by the leadership of the MKO to establish contacts with Reverend Mikhailyan, gain his confidence for continuing our contacts with him and eventually kill him in an opportune moment," she said.

"After attending the church several times and talking with Reverend Mikhailyan, under the pretext that one of our friends who did not have a firm grounding in religion needed to be encouraged to accept Christ as his savior, we invited him to a house already rented by us in the Majidiyeh district in Tehran. There I and the other two MKO members killed Mikhailyan by firing two shots at him," Anami confessed.

Asked by Mikhailyan's son what motive they had for murdering his father, Anami said "the organization (MKO) was of the opinion that in the present situation in which the discussion of human rights is a hot issue and (because) in the West Christianity is the dominant religion, it would be appropriate to kill Reverend Mikhailyan to serve the interests of the organization."

Anami added that MKO intended to blame the Islamic Republic of Iran for the murder of Mikhailyan.

She said that after the murder they placed the body inside a freezer so that they could transfer it to some other place. She also confessed that she was also given the responsibility for finding a suitable place for burying Mehdi Dibaj a Protestant priest who was also murdered by MKO. Dibaj's body was buried in a recreation forest in western Tehran.

Anami said that the MKO leadership had given them orders to print tracts under the name of "The Organization for Defending Human Rights in Iran" and hold the Islamic Republic responsible for murder. The tracts that were supposed to be mailed to the European embassies in Tehran were found at the home of Anami and her two accomplices.

Two other women who were involved in the murder of Reverend Mikhailyan were arrested at the shrines of Hazrat Ma'sumeh in Qom and the late Imam Khomeyni, the founder of the Islamic Republic, in southern Tehran yesterday for planning to bomb both shrines. Both women have confessed that they received their orders from MKO leadership stationed in Iraq. [passage omitted]

Authorities Foil Plot To Bomb Religious Shrines

Motives of 'Terrorists' Explained

LD0607220894 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1800 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] The Intelligence Ministry has announced the identity of two terrorists who intended to place bombs at the immaculate shrine of Her Holiness Ma'sumeh, peace be upon her, and the tomb of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his deeds.

According to the report, the two terrorists, who introduced themselves as Leila and Maryam upon their arrests, are members of the Monafeqin [hypocrites] [Mojahedin-e Khalq] based in Iraq. One of them is a 25-year old woman who initially introduced herself as Leila, and following later confessions said that her real name was Batul Kalateh. She said the motive for her criminal act was to implement an organizational order that she received from the Monafeqin in Iraq. She reiterated that she had tried three times earlier to implement her sinister intention but could not take the bomb inside the shrine of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni.

The terrorist added: The initial order received by the Monafeqin organization was that the bomb should be exploded at the immaculate shrine of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni on 'Ashura. For some reason, however, she could not transfer the bomb to the chosen place.

The identity of the other terrorist who intended to place a bomb at the immaculate shrine of Her Holiness Ma'sumeh, peace be upon her, was also given. According to the Intelligence Ministry statement, her real name is Maryam Shahbazpur. She has confessed that the Monafeqin organization's order was to carry out bombing operations in order to create insecurity in the Islamic society of Iran.

Bombers Would Have Been Killed

LD0707093094 Tehran IRNA in English 0902 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA—Elements of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) assigned to plant bombs, become a prey to the trap spread by themselves while carrying out bombing operations dictated to them by the MKO ringleaders.

An expert for defusing bombs told IRNA here Thursday that the MKO had intended to kill the two women who were assigned to plant bombs at the holy shrine of Hazrat Ma'sumeh (s) in the holy city of Qom and Imam Khomeyni's mausoleum in Tehran a few days ago. According to the confessions made by the two women, they were told that they would have five minutes time to flee the place after planting bombs at the shrine and the mausoleum.

However, the expert added, studies made on the discovered bombs showed that the bombs would have gone off immediately had the explosion switch been put in 'on' position and the bomb holder would have been killed prior to anyone else.

Meanwhile, a security official also told IRNA that after the two women realized the criminal nature of the terrorist MKO and found out they would have been the primary target of their bombing trap, expressed repentance for their past deeds. Later, the two women unveiled their connection with the MKO grouplet and disclosed measures they had taken upon instructions given by the terrorist organization.

Mojahedin-e Khalq Denies Charges

JN0707105794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Paris, 7 Jul (INA)—A spokesman for the Iranian opposition group Mojahedin-e Khalq has categorically denied the Iranian regime's claims that it apprehended a female member of the group while she was attempting to plant a bomb at a shrine in the Iranian city of Qom.

In a statement issued by the group's Paris office today, the spokesman added that these claims, just like a report carried by the Iranian regime's news agency on the arrest of a woman who was carrying a bomb at the site of Khomeyni's tomb, are utterly baseless.

The spokesman accused Iranian intelligence of promoting these falsehoods against the Mojahedin-e Khalq group to circumvent the activities expected to be carried out in Iran as part of a week of solidarity with Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the elected president of Iran. This has

exacerbated the regime's crisis on the domestic and international scenes, the spokesman maintained.

Commentary on Lebanese Resistance Against Israelis

NC0707073094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] Yesterday Islamic Resistance forces attacked a Zionist armored column on the al-Rayhan highway in the occupied areas in south Lebanon and killed or wounded several Israeli occupiers. The Zionist regime has admitted that one Israeli officer was killed in this attack.

Afterward the Zionist regime, which is helpless in its confrontation of the brave men of the Islamic Resistance, again shelled residential areas in south Lebanon and inflicted material damage.

Political observers believe that while the continuing resistance operations against the Zionist occupiers in Lebanon do not basically and fundamentally alter the military equation, they are of great political significance. Demonstrating overt collusion with the United States for two years now, the Zionist regime is trying to don a peaceseeking mask to hide its aggressive nature through the so-called Middle East peace talks and false slogans. Continuing the Islamic Resistance combatants' operations, a constant reminder of the Zionist regime's insistence on occupying part of the territory of Lebanon and some other Arab countries, thwarts much of the effort by the Zionist regime and reveals to the world that Israel is a usurping regime that is constantly violating international regulations.

The operations by the Muslim combatants of Lebanon against the Zionist occupiers reveal yet another reality: Contrary to allegations by some Arab heads, Tel Aviv is vulnerable. The Arab governments participating in the so-called Middle East peace talks allege that after the Cold War and the oil war the military equation in the region has changed to Israel's benefit and that this is the main reason they are participating in the compromise process. This is at a time when the operations by the Islamic Resistance show that even if this allegation is correct, faith in the validity of the path, as well as efforts and struggles against the Zionist regime, can greatly alter the equation and pave the way for the full vindication of rights.

Pakistan

Kashmir Situation Reportedly 'Extremely Serious'

LD0607140694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 1300 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] India is moving two divisions of its army to occupied Kashmir and Indian forces have been resorting to extensive breaches of cease-fire along the Line of Control in Kashmir. Briefing newsmen in Islamabad today, a Foreign Office spokesman said India is moving these divisions from the Chinese border. He described the situation in occupied Kashmir as extremely serious and said the Indian forces have been inflicting up to 20 casualties in the valley. He said the Indians are demonstrating their military might, especially in Doda district where the freedom struggle has been very active.

The spokesman said Pakistan continues to receive reports that India is likely to use helicopter gunships, especially in Doda District. He said this would constitute a new escalation of aggression in the held valley.